FRIDAY
June 20, 2025
BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
26 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com
INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

https://newsth.live/fb
https://newsth.live/x
https://newsth.live/ig

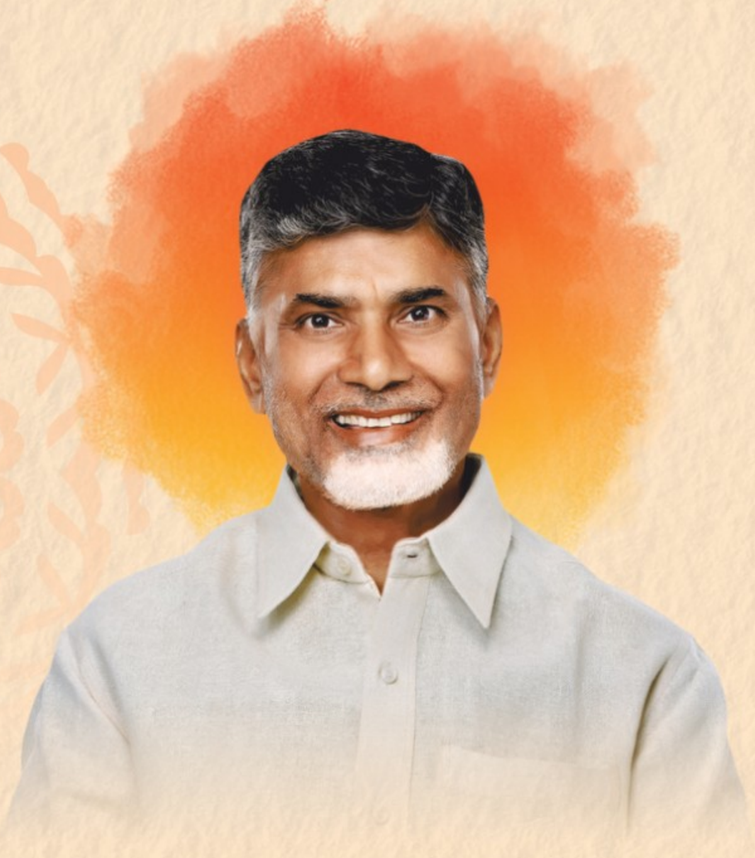
RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

Vol. 56 • No. 146

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

सत्यमेव जयते

"A Landmark Yoga Gathering"
Celebrating The 11th International Day Of Yoga



The Government of Andhra Pradesh is set to organize a monumental yoga event, bringing together over 2 crore people across the state in a collective celebration of health, unity, and spiritual enlightenment

We extend a warm welcome to

Shri Narendra Modi
Hon'ble Prime Minister of India

Join an IDY-2025 Event near you

Main Venue
RK Beach,
Visakhapatnam

YOGANDHRA

Date & Time
21st June, 2025
From 5:30 AM onwards

YOGA DAY ACTIVITIES

- 3 Lakh+ Participants to perform yoga alongside the Prime Minister in Vizag
- 50 Lakh+ Yoga Certificates to be awarded
- 2 Crore+ People will participate across 1 Lakh+ locations in Andhra Pradesh
- Guinness World Record attempt by the AP Government

COME, LET US UNITE IN SPIRIT AND BREATH - TO HONOUR YOGA, INDIA'S TIMELESS GIFT TO THE WORLD.

YOGA FOR ONE EARTH, ONE HEALTH

FRIDAY
June 20, 2025

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
26 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

https://newsth.live/fb
https://newsth.live/x
https://newsth.live/ig

RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

Vol. 56 • No. 146

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

DREAMLINER'S BLACK BOX

AAIB still undecided on data processing

NEWS » PAGE 12

FALLING INFLOWS

Role of FDI in development of India shrinking: UN

BUSINESS » PAGE 13

SHAKY RESTART TO TIES

Canada tables report on Nijjar killing, extremism

NEWS » PAGE 10

PARLEY

Will delaying the Census affect its implementation?

Questions ahead of the population count

OPINION » PAGE 9

THE ENGLISH TEST

India begins a new era under skipper Gill

SPORT » PAGE 15

Khamenei can no longer be allowed to exist: Israel

40 injured as Iranian strikes leave Israel's Soroka Hospital in flames; no deaths were reported; Iran's Supreme Leader 'personally' gave the order to fire on hospitals, says Israeli Defence Minister

Agence France-Presse
Associated Press
JERUSALEM/DUBAI

Trading blows: Israeli firefighters at the Soroka Hospital, which was struck by Iran on Thursday. AP

Iran's Supreme Leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei "can no longer be allowed to exist", Israel's Defence Minister Israel Katz said after an Iranian missile strike hit a hospital on Thursday, spiking tensions in the week-old war between the regional foes.

Israeli military said on Thursday morning that it had carried out dozens of new raids on Iranian targets overnight, including the partially built Arak nuclear reactor and a uranium enrichment facility in Natanz.

"Khamenei openly declares that he wants Israel destroyed – he personally gives the order to fire on hospitals," Mr. Katz told presspersons. "He considers the destruction of the state of Israel to be a goal. Such a man can no longer be allowed to exist."

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Iran would "pay a heavy price" for the hospital strike.

The Soroka Hospital in the southern Israeli city of Beersheba was left in flames by a bombardment that Iran said targeted a military and intelligence base.

Iran used a missile with multiple warheads which can pose a challenge for air defence systems, according to an Israeli military official, who spoke on condition of anonymity in line with military regulations.

U.S. involvement

The developments came as U.S. President Donald Trump dangled the prospect of his country's involvement in the war. Mr. Trump said on Thursday that he will decide whether to attack Iran within the next two weeks due to a "substantial" chance of negotiations. "Based on the fact that there's a substantial chance of negotiations that may or may not take place with Iran in the near future, I will make my decision whether or not to go within the next two weeks", Mr. Trump said in a statement.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10
RUSSIA WARNS U.S.
» PAGE 14

110 evacuated students arrive in New Delhi

NEW DELHI

Students evacuated from Iran under Operation Sindhu arrived in New Delhi in the early hours of Thursday after spending six days in the conflict-hit country and nearly 52 hours of travelling.

A total of 110 students from Urmia University in Iran had crossed over to Armenia on Tuesday, before being flown to New Delhi by the Indian government. » PAGE 10

NEARBY

Cabinet hikes housing quota for minorities to 15%

BENGALURU

The State Cabinet approved a proposal to increase the reservation from 10% to 15% for minorities under various State government housing schemes. » Page 19

Health insurance for contract, outsourced staff

BENGALURU

The Cabinet decided to bring three lakh outsourced and contract employees/workers under the Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust for providing cashless health insurance of up to ₹5 lakh. » Page 19

METROPLUS » PAGE 22

Officials blamed for 'slipshod' handling of judge cash case

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Justice Yashwant Varma

An in-house inquiry committee constituted by the Chief Justice of India has concluded that cash was found in the gutted storeroom on the official residential premises of the High Court judge Justice Yashwant Varma, and police and fire authorities were "slipshod" in not lodging an FIR or preparing a seizure memo recording exactly what they came across at the scene of the fire on March 14-15.

The report of the three-judge committee of May 3, which had been confidentially forwarded to the President and the Prime Minister by then-Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, was shared in the public domain by the legal website *The Leaflet* on Wednesday.

The committee in its report said that the "higher police officials" had sought to explain their inaction by pointing to reasons such as the "sensitivity of the issue" and the absence of Justice Varma at his residence at the time of incident. The report said the judge and his family members were in "covert or active control" of access into the storeroom.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

SC criticises curbs on *Thug Life* over 'hurt sentiments'

Krishnadas Rajagopal
NEW DELHI

The Supreme Court on Thursday observed that an unending "litany of hurt sentiments" has emerged as a serious threat to free speech and expression in cinema, literature, and theatre in India, fuelling mob violence and intimidation.

A Vacation Bench of Justices Ujjal Bhuyan and Manmohan made the observations while closing petitions against an "unofficial ban" on the release of actor Kamal Haasan's Tamil movie *Thug Life* in Karnataka, following an assurance from the State government that no restrictions would be imposed on the movie and that adequate protection would be provided to cinemas screening it.

"This litany of hurt sentiments... there is no end to it. One or the other is hurt by whatever he sees or hears and then there is vandalism... Where are we heading?" Justice Bhuyan remarked. The top court underscored that it is the duty of the state to ensure that mobs and groups that engage in violence are held accountable.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 10

State moots law for crowd control

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following the death of 11 people in a stampede at the RCB's IPL victory celebrations, the government has drafted a law for crowd control that proposes stringent measures against event managers whose negligence leads to deaths.

The Karnataka Crowd Control (Managing Crowd at Events and Venues of Mass Gathering) Bill says that the event planner will be punished with imprisonment for a term of up to three years or a fine of up to ₹5 lakh, or both.

FULL REPORT ON
» PAGE 19

Opportunity to create magic beckons Gill and his band of brothers

India goes into the Test series in England after losses to New Zealand and Australia; how well the visitors' batters perform could well determine the team's fortunes

GETTY IMAGES

R. Kaushik

The Queens Hotel is listed as a minute's stroll from the Leeds railway station, in the heart of the city centre. It's the Indian team's abode for the duration of its stay ahead of and during the first Test against England, starting on Friday.

Long-term employees of the hotel insist that the throng of people hanging around the hotel, hoping desperately to catch a glimpse of the Indian players, has perhaps never been so thin. There is a certain lack of buzz that is unmistakable; several locals of Asian origin aren't even aware there is a Test match imminent at Headingley.

Much of that apathy, if that's the right word, in the lead-up to the latest five-Test showdown between the sides can be put down to the absence from the touring party of Rohit Sharma and his immediate predecessor as the captain, Virat Kohli. The latter, especially, is a darling of the masses here with his arresting personality and his excellent record while there is great love and respect for Rohit, not least because of the five hundreds he unleashed in the 2019 50-over World Cup.

It's not that Indian fans have written off their team's chances even before a ball has been bowled. The current lack of overwhelming interest stems from a certain disappointment at the Kohli-Rohit no-show, and the fact that when it comes to the popularity stakes, no one apart from possibly Jasprit Bumrah is in the same league now, with due respect to Rishabh Pant. That India are bang in the middle of transition in the five-day format is hardly in doubt. The unsuccessful tour of Australia, where they were beaten 1-3 over the winter despite bossing the opening exchange in Perth, marked the final Test appearances not just of Rohit and Kohli, but also that giant of an off-spinner, R. Ashwin. Between them, this trio boasts 296 Test caps; no side, however accomplished it might be, can immediately come to terms with the loss of such proven resources, which explains why not too many expect too much from a young side helmed by a first-time Test captain.

Task ahead for Gill

It's the lot of Shubman Gill and his band of brothers to revive the interest and regather the attention of the Indian fans. Gill, only 25, isn't unaware of the magnitude of the task that lies ahead of him. He has also been made aware numerous times on numerous platforms that India have won only three series in England since 1932, and that their last triumph in these shores came under Rahul Dravid in 2007.

The catchline for an old commercial on television went: "Tradition is what used to be." It's debatable if Gill shares that point of view, because he has shown great reverence and respect when it comes to tradition and history. But like the rest of his 18 other colleagues in the extended playing squad, he will be determined to write his and his team's history of their own. What better time to kick off that process than right at the start, when external expectations might appear low but the fire is burning bright within the ranks?

India had a poor time of it in Test cricket between October and January, when they lost six of eight matches, among them an unprecedented three on the trot at home against New Zealand. Some, but not all, of that trauma has dissipated in a tsunami of white-ball action subsequently, not least thanks to ultimate success in the Champions Trophy in Dubai in February-March where Rohit was the Player of the Final against New Zealand and Kohli reiterated his standing as the ultimate chaser in 50-over cricket with match-winning efforts against Pakistan and Australia (in the semifinal). But the prospect of a return to the longer format will stoke pangs of anxiety in the followers, if not the players themselves, and particularly so considering that a plethora of top-order choices - Yashasvi Jaiswal, Sai Sudharsan, Abhimanyu Easwaran and Karun Nair - hasn't played Test cricket in England previously.

Historically, England has been the most demanding of all Test-hosting countries from a batting standpoint. It was once said that no batter's education was complete unless they had played, and performed, in England. That might not necessarily be the case anymore, considering that England's faith in Bazball has altered the dynamics of pitch-preparation, if nothing else. Like India, but on the bowling front, England too are coming to terms with the retirements of James Anderson and Stuart Broad, two extraordinary servants of their country with 1,308 Test wickets between them. They have decent back-ups (how can you replace one bowler with 704 scalps and another with 604?) who don't yet have the same threat-potential that Anderson and Broad had, so India can expect to breathe slightly easy, but only slightly so.

At the core of how well India go over the next six and a half weeks is how the batting group adjusts to the demands of playing in England. Pant, Gill's deputy who has a century in each of his two Test tours of England, spoke of how the greater challenge of moving from white- to red-ball cricket was in the mind and in the attitude, rather than technically. "You must be more side-on, allow the ball to come to you and play close to your body," he pointed out, "but more than that, the adjustment is mainly mental." Pant has shown in various parts of the world that he is adept at that adjustment, as evidenced by an average of more than 42 in 43 Tests despite his high-risk approach. Now in his new avatar and batting at No. 5, one spot below his good mate 'Shubby', he will have to show greater restraint without completely going against his natural grain if he is to retain both his shock and stock value.

England's pace attack is not trifling - Ben Stokes will have Chris Woakes, Brydon Carse and Josh Tongue for company, with Jofra Archer and Mark Wood, and potentially Gus Atkinson, due to return to the fray at some stage in the summer. They will ask questions of India's batters in conditions largely alien to the latter, but these questions are unlikely to have the same sustained intensity of the Anderson-Broad era. If the batters can put meaningful runs on the board during what is projected to a be a hot summer, there will be an opportunity for the bowlers to hold their own. India's trick will be to somehow find a place for Kuldeep Yadav, the wrist-spinner, in the playing XI, though whether they will be willing to compromise perceived batting depth to do so is open to question.

The Bumrah factor

The focus won't be on the batting group alone, though. The genius of Bumrah dictates that he will be the cynosure, no matter what. For a long time now, he has been the most feared bowler in the world, never mind if it is a Test match, a One-Day International or a T20 shootout. Such is his command and control over his craft that he brooks the most careful watching every time he walk-stutter-runs to the bowling crease. In Australia, his 32 wickets were the stuff of legend. In Dubai, India managed to tide over his absence through their assortment of spinners on slow surfaces but in the IPL, Bumrah reinforced his standing as the premier all-format bowler of his generation, his return from injury coinciding (?) with a revival of Mumbai Indians' fortunes.

Much of the talk around Bumrah coming into this series has revolved around his workload, and how many matches he can/will play. Perhaps it's premature to harp so much on that - the word is that he will only figure in three of the five Tests - when not even a ball has been bowled in anger. Perhaps, the three-Test formula will be revisited if India bowl their opponents cheaply, if the weather plays spoilsport or if his pace support cast of Mohammed Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Akash Deep, the uncapped Arshdeep Singh and Harshit Rana, backed up by all-rounders Nitish Kumar and Shardul Thakur, step up and take a lot of the load off Bumrah's able but heavy shoulders. But it's no secret that Stokes and head coach Brendon McCullum would have spent long hours discussing the Bumrah threat, and how best to go about minimising it - there would, one is certain, have been no talk of neutralising or dismantling it.

The Test bandwagon will roll on to Edgbaston, Lord's and Old Trafford before returning to the English capital, and The Oval, for the final act. Many of India's players, at least those historically inclined, will recognise the charm and the attraction of each of these grounds - Lord's more than any other, and not just because it is touted as the headquarters of cricket. It was here that India played their first Test match, in June 1932, and it was also here that Kapil Dev's peachy Class of '83 ripped the formbook to shreds with their epochal victory in the 60-over World Cup.

To now be presented with the opportunity of parading their wares at this ground should act as a source of inspiration. Sourav Ganguly marked his Test debut with a hundred at the same venue nearly three decades back, while in 2002, current chairman of selectors Ajit Agarkar slammed his only Test century, weeks after India's triumph in the NatWest Trophy final when Yuvraj Singh and Mohammad Kaif played lead roles in successfully hunting down 325 against Nasser Hussain's outfit.

England are the favourites but Pant was insistent that anyone who viewed India as 'underdogs' did so at their own peril. "We want to win this series, that's the mindset we've come with," he said. "For us, it's not about individual glory. If the team wins, everyone wins. That's the kind of thought process, the kind of mentality we want to take in the future." If that translates to a momentous victory in Leeds, The Queens will become a star attraction, make no mistake.

THE GIST

- There is a certain lack of buzz that is unmistakable; several locals of Asian origin aren't even aware there is a Test match imminent at Headingley
- Historically, England has been the most demanding of all Test-hosting countries from a batting standpoint
- At the core of how well India go over the next six and a half weeks is how the batting group adjusts to the demands of playing in England
- Much of the talk around Bumrah coming into this series has revolved around his workload

A NEW ERA OF CONNECTIVITY

THE GORAKHPUR LINK EXPRESSWAY TAKES OFF

TOTAL LENGTH

91.35 Km

STARTING POINT

GORAKHPUR BYPASS NH-27
VILLEGE- JAITPUR, DISTRICT- GORAKHPUR

ENDING POINT

PURVANCHAL EXPRESSWAY
DISTRICT-AZAMGARH

A fresh road promise for eastern Uttar Pradesh has just rolled off the drawing board.The Gorakhpur Link Expressway stretches a clean 91.35 km, starting at Jaitpur on NH-27 in Gorakhpur and merging with the Purvanchal Expressway at Salarpur in Azamgarh. Built as a four-lane-quickly-upgradable to six-lane-controlled-access road, the Rs 7,283-crore scheme gives a major boost to the states sorely needed network.

BENEFITS OF THE GORAKHPUR LINK EXPRESSWAY

- **With the construction of the expressway, the Gorakhpur region will be connected to Lucknow, Agra, and Delhi through the Purvanchal Expressway, enabling a fast and smooth traffic corridor.**
- **Plans are underway to develop industrial hubs on both sides of the expressway in Gorakhpur and Ambedkar Nagar districts.**
- **The development of industrial hubs will lead to increased investment in the region, job creation, and a boost to the local economy.**
- **As the expressway will be access-controlled, it will significantly save fuel consumption, reduce travel time, and help control environmental pollution.**

Features of the Expressway

- It is an access-controlled 4-lane expressway (expandable up to 6 lanes), with all structures constructed to accommodate 6 lanes.
- The expressway is connected to major roads of the districts through 09 interchanges, enabling smooth entry and exit.
- Keeping public convenience in mind, 02 toilet blocks and a food plaza have been constructed along the expressway.
- A service road has been constructed on one side of the expressway, along with the development of 125 underpasses to ensure better connectivity and movement for residents of nearby villages.
- Provision of 02 public amenity complexes (WSA), which include facilities like petrol pumps, CNG stations, EV charging stations, rest houses, and restaurants for the comfort of travelers.

Proposed/Ongoing Expressway Projects in the State

Chitrakoot Link Expressway • Lucknow Link Expressway (Agra–Lucknow Expressway to Purvanchal Expressway) • Farrukhabad Link Expressway (Ganga Expressway to Agra–Lucknow Expressway) • Jewar Link Expressway (Yamuna Expressway to Ganga Expressway via Bulandshahr) • Jhansi Link Expressway • Vindhya Expressway • Vindhya–Purvanchal Link Expressway • Meerut-Haridwar Link Expressway (up to the border of Uttar Pradesh) • Chitrakoot to Rewa (NH-30) Link Expressway

Demand up for autos after bike taxis go off the road

This shift has led to increased pressure on the limited number of operational autos in the city; commuters complain of long waiting hours and availability issues, especially during peak hours

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following the Karnataka government's recent crackdown on bike taxi services, the demand for autorickshaw rides has surged in Bengaluru, leading to availability issues, especially during peak hours.

The bike taxi ban has left thousands of daily commuters in Bengaluru scrambling for alternatives.

According to auto drivers and union representatives, app-based bookings have skyrocketed since June 16, when bike taxi services were expected to cease operations in the absence of any order from the High Court of Karnataka allowing them to operate.

In the absence of bike taxis, which had become a popular last-mile connectivity option on aggregator platforms such as Rapido, Uber, and Ola, commuters are now turning to autos on these same apps. However, this shift has led to increased pressure on the limited number of operational autos in the city.

Sharanya S., a commuter from Banashankari, said that booking an auto has become increasingly difficult since Tuesday.

"Earlier, I had to wait may be for 10 to 15 minutes, but now the waiting time has gone up to 30 minutes or more, even during non-peak hours. First, the government banned carpooling apps; now it's bike taxis. This is affecting the general public, especially those like me who rely on these services to reach metro stations. There are a few BMTC buses, and now this ban is worsening last-mile connectivity," she said.

The bike taxi ban has left thousands of daily commuters in Bengaluru scrambling for alternatives. FILE PHOTO

'Costlier, stressful'

Another commuter, Vijay R. from Rajajinagar, said, "Bike taxis were affordable and quick. I live about 3 km from the metro station, and taking an auto daily is not only costlier, but also harder now because they are either unavailable or cancel frequently. The ban has made commuting more stressful. Earlier, I used to pay ₹50 for a bike taxi ride, now I am paying ₹120 for auto ride."

As of October 2024, Bengaluru had 3.45 lakh registered autorickshaws, according to the State Transport Department. However, this figure includes all registered autorickshaws and not just those currently operating. Many vehicles are off the road for reasons ranging from mechanical issues to driver unavailability, creating a supply-demand mismatch.

Auto Rickshaw Drivers' Union (ARDU) general secretary T.M. Rudramurthy acknowledged the spike in demand. "Yes, there is a surge because the number of active autos is not as high as the total registered ones. But in the long run, this shift is positive We believe this mismatch will stabilise soon," he added.

Drivers, too, are witnessing the change firsthand.

Musfir P., an auto driver from Adugodi, said, "Earlier, I used to get around 15 rides a day on aggregator apps. Now, my phone keeps buzzing with booking requests. It is impossible to accept all of them. I use two apps and get back-to-back rides every hour now. The bike taxi ban is pushing people to book more auto rides."

Bike taxi riders demand legal recognition

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Over 100 bike taxi drivers from the Namma Bike Taxi Association met Health Minister Dinesh Gundu Rao and Dasarahalli MLA S. Muniraju on Thursday, urging the government to halt the ongoing crackdown on bike taxis, and establish a clear regulatory framework.

Representing platforms such as Ola, Uber, and Rapido, the drivers submitted a petition demanding legal recognition and protection from harassment.

"Despite the recent passage of the Gig Workers' Welfare Bill, the government has remained silent on the status of bike taxis. I receive hundreds of distress calls daily. We want regulation, not a ban," Mohammed Salim, president of the association, said.

Man injured after tree branch falls on him dies; FIR registered

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sharath Shivaram, a 29-year-old who sustained critical injuries after a tree branch fell on him on Sunday, succumbed on Thursday.

Following the death, the Hanumanthnagar police have registered an FIR against BBMP forest cell officials for death due to negligence.

Sharath Shivaram, HR with a private firm, was returning home on a scooter on Sunday, when a tree branch crashed on him when on Brahma Chaitanya Road. He sustained severe head injuries and was rushed to a private hospital, where he slipped into coma.

KIA gets bomb threat again

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru received a bomb threat by mail yet again, keeping the security staff on their toes.

On June 17, the terminal manager of the airport received an email from 'Alex Paul Menon' claiming that Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) had been planted in two places like a puzzle and they would explode in the washroom pipeline if not solved. The sender claimed that the blast would be to commemorate the hanging of Mumbai terror accused Ajmal Kasab and the alleged illegal detention of YouTuber Savakku Shankar.

A special team was formed to check the airport before alerting the police.

On June 13, a similar email was received by the airport security from 'Chitrakala Gopalan' claiming that an IED had been planted near the prayer room. The police have registered an FIR.

A view from inside KIA in Bengaluru. BIAL sources say that there was no impact on or disruption of airport services because of the bomb threats. FILE PHOTO

'Quite a routine'

BIAL sources said that there was no impact on or disruption of airport services due to the bomb threats.

"There have been a few instances recently where fake bomb threats calls and emails have been received. Following up on this, the agencies concerned have reported the same to the police, and FIRs have been registered. This has become quite a routine now. However, there have been no disruption of flights due to this," a source in the BIAL said.

Portrait of a leader

Noteworthy: A portrait of Rahul Gandhi, Leader of the Opposition in the Lok Sabha, was made using 30,000 notebooks at the Central College in Bengaluru on Thursday. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Doctor booked for ruckus on flight

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The accused has been charged under the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation Act, 1982, and various sections of BNS, according to the police

The airport police at the Kempegowda International Airport in Bengaluru have booked a 36-year-old doctor for allegedly creating a ruckus on a Surat-bound flight on Tuesday afternoon.

The accused, identified as Hiral Vyas Mohanbhai, was offloaded with the help of securitypersonnel and handed over to the police. Based on the airline staff's complaint, the police charged Hiral under the Suppression of Unlawful Acts against the Safety of Civil Aviation Act, 1982, and Sections 351 (criminal intimidation) and 353 (conduct to public mischief) of BNS.

According to the complaint, the accused boarded Air India flight No IX2749, kept the luggage in the first row, and went to sit in a seat in a different row. When the cabin crew asked about it, she allegedly started arguing and misbehaving, creating a ruckus. The accused even threatened to "crash the flight," creating panic among the passengers, the complaint said.

The matter was brought to the notice of the captain, who alerted the security personnel, who rushed to the flight, deboarded her and handed over to the police.

In another incident, the police arrested a 22-year-old private firm employee for trying to enter the airport from the departure gate to board a domestic flight on Wednesday night.

The accused, Sadaad Mohammed Baba from Srinagar, has been booked under Sections 133 (assault or use of criminal force with the intent to dishonor a person, excluding cases of grave and sudden provocation), 221 (obstructing a public servant in the discharge of their duties) and 329 (criminal trespass) of BNS.

According to the police, Baba wanted to board an Indigo domestic flight to Srinagar and allegedly tried to enter from the wrong side. He allegedly manhandled Niranjan Singh and Velliswamy, the CISF security personnel, when they stopped him and went inside the airport. The accused was later overpowered by other staff and security personnel and handed over to the police.

D.K. Suresh elected unopposed as BAMUL president

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

D.K. Suresh, brother of Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar and a former MP, has been elected unopposed as the president of the Bangalore Milk Union Ltd. (BAMUL).

This is being viewed as a move to strengthen the influence of the brothers in the milk cooperative sector, which may pave the way for him to eventually become president of the Karnataka Milk Federation (KMF).

D.K. Suresh

Kudur Rajanna was elected vice-president of BAMUL, also unopposed.

Speaking to reporters after the election results were declared, Mr. Suresh said that all 16 directors (14 elected and two nominated) of the union had elected him and Mr. Rajanna unopposed. The former MP said that he had filed his nomination at the behest of all MLAs within the BAMUL jurisdiction, including his brother Mr. Shivakumar.

Speaking on his future plans, he said environment-friendly milk packets had been introduced recently in the Kanakapura Milk Union and there was a proposal to expand it to the entire State. "This will be discussed in detail in the next board meeting and would be implemented in a phased manner," he said.

Mr. Suresh that his current focus was on expanding the reach and scale of the union's production and help the farmers associated with it.

PG student dies during childbirth at home

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 27-year-old postgraduate student died reportedly due to excessive bleeding after delivering a baby boy at her home in Vyalikaval on Wednesday.

The deceased, a native of Darjeeling, West Bengal, was pursuing LLM at a private college. She was staying with her parents, the police said.

According to the police, the victims's mother and relative woke up to a baby crying and found the girl in an unconscious state in her room. They immediately rushed both the mother and the baby to K.C. General hospital, where the doctors declared her 'brought dead.'The police have registered a case of unnatural death.

Rehab centres booked for illegal detention, physical abuse following SHRC raid

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Following a series of raids carried out by the Karnataka State Human Rights Commission (SHRC) on five rehab centres allegedly involved in serious violations, as many as three FIRS have been filed against the accused charging them under wrongful confinement and harassment to the inmates under the garb of treatment.

One of the victims who was rescued, identified as Krishne Gowda, 50, alleged that his wife Asha, her father Anand, and a relative Kiran forcibly admitted him to the centre on false grounds to stop him from attending court hearings related to a long-standing property dispute. He alleged that he has been confined at the centre since December 2023 despite being mentally fit and never addicted to substances.

In another statement recorded on Thursday evening, a youth told police that he was sent to the same rehab centre by his mother in the first week of June due to addiction of mobile games and behavioural issues. Based on the complaint, the police have registered a case of illegal confinement under the Juvenile Justice Act for further investigation.

.Officials said many of the detainees were non-addicted individuals, held without proper medical oversight or legal process.

Megaravalli boy who handled tools at his father's garage gets into IIT-Kanpur

Sathish G.T.
SHIVAMOGGA

It is dream come true for 18-year-old Sushanth N. Prabhu of Megaravalli in Tirthahalli taluk of Shivamogga, as he got selected into IIT-Kanpur in Uttar Pradesh. A son of a two-wheeler mechanic, Sushanth will be studying BTech at the prestigious institution.

It is a proud moment for his father, Narasimhamurthy Prabhu, who studied up to SSLC, and his mother, Sujatha Prabhu, who has completed PUC.

Sushanth studied in a government school up to SSLC. As a schoolboy, he assisted his father in the garage, repairing motorcycles, and that helped him understand how bikes work and his father's struggle to fulfil the needs of the family of five members.

Sushanth Prabhu with his mother, Sujatha Prabhu, sister, Bhagyashree Prabhu, and father Narasimhamurthy Prabhu, at their Megaravalli residence in Tirthahalli taluk. SATHISH G.T.

"He began to work with me very early. He handles engines and good at minor repair works," said Mr. Narasimhamurthy Prabhu. "We always wanted our children to study well, lead an independent life and do good for society," said Ms. Sujatha, who stitched clothes to support the family for several years.

Until Sushanth reached SSLC, he had no idea of IIT or NIT. In 2022, he developed an innovative 'self-chain adjustment system' for bikes. His project was selected for the national-level exhibition and competition, popularly known as Inspire Awards - Manak, organised by the National Innovation Foundation of the Department of Science and Technology. His teacher Raghavendra A. Bhat was his mentor.

They visited the National Institute of Technology (NIT) at Suratkal in Dakshina Kannada in May, 2022, to attend the mentoring workshop as part of the competition. "During our visit to NIT Suratkal, I had told Sushanth that if he studied well, he could secure a seat at NIT-Suratkal. He was very impressed by the campus and the institute. He took it seriously. Now, I am happy that my student has been selected to study at the IIT," said Mr. Bhat, who now works at the government high school at Guddekoppa in Tirthahalli taluk.

Sushanth feels that the visit to Suratkal sparked his dream of studying at an IIT. "That day, my teacher spoke about IIT-JEE and the importance of studying at IITs. He wanted me to take it as a challenge to get a seat," he said.

He cleared the SSLC with a score of 620 out of 625. After clearing the tough selection process, he joined a residential school run by Rashtrotthana Parishat in Bengaluru. The institute offers free PU education with coaching for IIT-JEE for meritorious students from rural backgrounds. He did well in the entrance test and secured a seat for BTech in chemical engineering in the first round of seat allotment. "I am planning to work and later become an entrepreneur. Besides that, I have also plans to prepare for the civil service examinations," said Sushanth.

The unregulated drink: rethinking alcohol control in India

Alcohol consumption significantly raises the risk of injuries, mental illness, and non-communicable diseases, including cancer; it is time for a National Alcohol Control Policy and Programme that prioritises people over profit, prevention over revenue, and long-term well-being over short-term gains

Vid Karmarkar
Jitendra Chouksey

The safe limit for alcohol consumption is zero ml. Yet, 23% of Indian men and 1% of women consume alcohol (NFHS-5). India also records one of the highest rates of heavy episodic drinking, with lakhs needing clinical and social support.

Alcohol consumption significantly raises the risk of injuries, mental illness, and non-communicable diseases, including cancer. Beyond health, alcohol use is associated with aggression, crime, suicides, and risky behaviour.

In 2021, alcohol-use contributed to approximately 2.6 million DALYs (Disability-Adjusted Life Years) in India, reflecting the combined toll of premature deaths and years lived with illness or disability. The estimated societal cost of alcohol-related health is ₹6.24 trillion. Meanwhile, per capita alcohol consumption increased by about 240% in the last two decades, an underestimate because nearly half of alcohol use in India is unrecorded.

Determinants of alcohol consumption

Alcohol use is shaped by a complex web of biopsychosocial, commercial and policy-level determinants. (i) Biopsychosocial determinants: Biologically, some individuals are genetically predisposed to addiction. Alcohol activates the brain's reward system making it habit-forming. Psychologically, people drink to relieve stress, anxiety, or experience euphoria. Socially, urban lifestyles, peer pressure, and glamourised portrayals in media have normalised alcohol use. (ii) Commercial determinants: The industry has broadened its product portfolio with offerings such as fruit-flavoured spirits, pre-mixed cocktails, and other ready-to-drink options, making alcohol more appealing to new and younger users. Despite legal advertising restrictions, promotional tactics persist through surrogate advertising, brand sponsorships, and strategic product placements, where the depiction of alcohol has doubled over the past two decades. Pubs and bars offer incentives like 'Happy Hours' and free samples, while social media algorithms subtly amplify alcohol-related content (ARC).

The placement of liquor stores in residential and high-traffic areas, ensures easy access and everyday visibility. Packaging shapes consumer perception - sleek bottles, international labels, and premium branding enhance the aspirational value of alcohol.

Pricing ensures affordability. Indian Made Indian Liquor (IMIL) remains cheap and accessible to lower-income groups, especially in rural areas, while growing disposable incomes in cities have made alcohol increasingly affordable for the urban middle class.

Swift action: Alcohol use in 2021 caused 2.6 million Disability-Adjusted Life Years in India. ISTOCKPHOTO

(iii) Policy is the most influential determinant. The alcohol industry wields significant influence over regulation, often resisting stricter laws by emphasising its contribution to State revenues through excise taxes. Even bans on advertising are undermined through tactical marketing and alcohol persists in public life under different names.

Alcohol regulation in India falls under State jurisdiction, granting each State authority over legislation, excise taxes, supply chain, licensing and manufacturing, sale and consumption restrictions, prohibition, and pricing. This autonomy has led to regulatory variations across States.

For instance, Bihar, Gujarat, Mizoram, and Nagaland enforce prohibition, while Andhra Pradesh, Haryana, Kerala, Manipur, and Tamil Nadu had previously imposed similar bans. In contrast, some States are now actively promoting alcohol sales. Kerala's new Akbari Policy markets toddy as a "natural, traditional beverage," while Andhra Pradesh is introducing a policy offering alcohol for ₹99 to ensure "quality, quantity, and affordability." Meanwhile, some States are exploring online alcohol delivery through platforms like Swiggy, Zomato, and Blinkit, contradicting efforts to restrict alcohol access.

Alcohol accessibility

Regulation of alcohol accessibility in India varies as equally as availability. The legal drinking age differs across States, ranging from 18 to 25 years. Alcohol pricing regulation exists in 19 of 33 States/UTs, with nine States setting only maximum prices while others setting both maximum and minimum prices. The GST Act excludes liquor from sales tax, leaving alcohol taxes to States, often vaguely defined in excise policies.

Compared to State policies, national-level policies are more specific addressing single aspects such as drunk driving or prevention of alcohol use and regulating supply-chain in an individual policy. However, India lacks a unified national policy on alcohol regulation.

Earlier, alcohol was excluded from the National Policy on Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances (NDPS) 2012 despite being a common psychoactive substance followed by cannabis and opioids. Later, alcohol regulation was included in the National Action Plan for Drug Demand Reduction (NAPDDR) 2021-22 under Nasha Mukta Bharat Abhiyan.

While the NAPDDR addresses alcohol regulation, its demand and supply reduction efforts are scattered across Central ministries and State governments. The Ministry of Social Justice leads demand reduction, while supply and harm reduction are handled by the Ministries of Home Affairs, Finance, and Health.

The National Mental Health Policy (NMHP) 2014 recognised the role of alcohol in mental illness and suicide prevention and suggested the need for a specific action plan. Similarly, the National Health Policy (NHP) 2017 mentioned curbing alcohol use through higher taxation. More recently, the National Suicide Prevention Strategy (NSPS) 2022 identified alcohol as a major risk factor for suicides, advocating for a national alcohol control policy and measures to limit alcohol accessibility.

The National Action Plan and Monitoring Framework for Prevention and Control of Noncommunicable Diseases (NMAP) 2017-2022 also echoed the call for a national alcohol policy.

The way ahead

Regulating alcohol is urgent but complex, given alcohol's deep entanglement with State revenues, social norms, and political interests. It is time to move beyond short-term revenue thinking and adopt a systems approach - grounded in both evidence and equity. Based on the biopsychosocial and commercial determinants of alcohol consumption, we propose the following to regulate alcohol-use.

(i)Affordability: Alcohol pricing must deter excessive use without pushing the poor toward dangerous alternatives like illicit liquor.

(ii)Allocation: Health taxes on alcohol should not disappear into general revenues. Ear-marking these funds for public health, combined with transparent governance, can improve trust and accountability - and prevent corporate lobbying from redirecting them.

(iii)Accessibility: Alcohol access must be curbed beyond geographic distance. Urban policy must reduce availability in everyday spaces to signal a shift toward alcohol-free environments.

(iv)Advertisement: In the digital age, "alcohol influencers" in India promote consumption by framing alcohol positively. Regulating this "social surrogacy" - including algorithmic amplification - is key to reducing social appeal.

(v) Attractiveness: Plain packaging, visible warning labels, and controls on point-of-sale promotion are needed to disrupt the cycle of normalisation.

(vi) Awareness: Public understanding of alcohol's health harms - especially its link to cancer, mental illness, and generational poverty - remains low. Large-scale public education campaigns, similar to tobacco control efforts, are overdue.

(vii) Artificial Intelligence:AI tools can detect and suppress alcohol-related content on digital platforms and flag misinformation. When 180 million monthly users see health misinformation (e.g., WebMD praising alcohol), it is clear that digital regulation is a frontline public health priority.

India's alcohol crisis cannot be solved through isolated actions or State-level measures. It is time for a National Alcohol Control Policy and Programme that prioritises people over profit, prevention over revenue, and long-term well-being over short-term gains.

(Dr. Vid Karmarkar, is a venture building partner at Fittr, and the founder of Canseva Foundation. vid.karmarkar@gmail.com; Jitendra Chouksey is the Founder and CEO of Fittr, a fitness company. jc@fittr.com)

THE GIST

- India records one of the highest rates of heavy episodic drinking, with lakhs needing clinical and social support
- Alcohol use is shaped by a complex web of biopsychosocial, commercial and policy-level determinants. Policy is the most influential determinant
- Compared to State policies, national-level policies are more specific in addressing single aspects such as drunk driving or prevention of alcohol use

HUMERUS

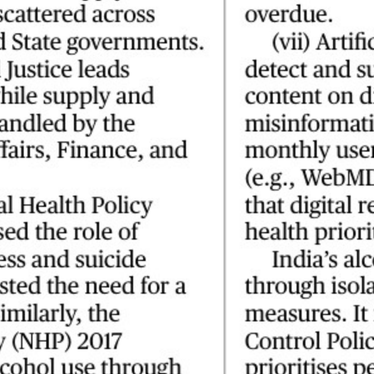
What the WHA's landmark resolution on skin diseases means for global health and equity

Monisha Madhumita

On May 24, 2025, something unprecedented happened: for the first time in history, the 78th World Health Assembly (WHA) unanimously adopted a resolution titled 'Skin diseases as a global public health priority'. This long-overdue resolution marks a significant shift in how the world understands skin health, not only as a cosmetic issue, but as a core component of global public health, social equity, and human dignity.

The road to this resolution was paved through years of advocacy, cross-sector partnerships, and irrefutable data. Despite affecting an estimated 1.9 billion people worldwide, skin diseases have remained chronically underfunded and neglected, especially in low- and middle-income countries. This landmark resolution, jointly sponsored by Côte d'Ivoire, Nigeria, Togo, and Micronesia, and others, supported by the International League of Dermatologic Societies (ILDS), the world's largest alliance of dermatology organisations marks a pivotal moment in recognising skin diseases as a global public health priority.

It reflects a growing global recognition that skin health is central to the well-being and dignity of populations across every region.



Skin diseases affect 1.9 billion globally but remain neglected. ISTOCKPHOTO

The urgency of this resolution is especially pronounced in low-resource settings where dermatologic care is inaccessible and stigma remains high. Folakemi Cole-Adeife, consultant physician and dermatologist at LASUTH (Lagos State University Teaching Hospital), Nigeria, underscores the significance of this moment. "This historic step will be positively pivotal for skin healthcare worldwide," she says. "Skin diseases, though often overlooked, carry immense morbidity, stigma, and socioeconomic burden, particularly in LMICs (low and middle income countries)."

She adds that the ripple effect of this resolution must extend globally. "It compels us to ask why so many common skin conditions still go untreated, why dermatology training remains limited in frontline health systems, and why stigma persists, particularly for diseases visible on darker skin tones. In India and Africa, where the burden of pigmentary disorders, fungal infections, and neglected skin diseases is immense, this resolution is an opportunity to push for better access, culturally competent care, and research that reflects diverse skin types. It's time we reframed skin health as a public health issue."

The regional reality

The significance of this resolution is being deeply felt across South Asia, West Asia, and Africa - regions represented by Rashmi Sarkar, Regional Director of the ILDS. She is one of the leading voices in pigmentary disorders and global dermatology policy. She says healthcare funding has traditionally prioritised chronic diseases of internal organs, often overlooking skin health, despite its significant physical, psychological, and economic impact.

"Skin diseases are deeply tied to a person's self-esteem and opportunities," Dr. Sarkar notes.

"Stigma around visible conditions including vitiligo, psoriasis, or chronic infections leads to exclusion not just from medical care, but from employment and society itself." She sees the resolution as a pivotal tool to correct these disparities.

For India, the WHA resolution arrives at a crucial time. With one of the highest dermatologic disease burdens globally from chronic inflammatory conditions to fungal infections and pigmentary disorders, India stands to benefit immensely from global recognition and domestic reform.

This is a chance to integrate skin care into public health infrastructure, strengthen research on skin of colour, expand dermatology training at the primary care level.

(Dr. Monisha Madhumita is a consultant dermatologist at Saveetha Medical College, Chennai. mail.monisha.m@gmail.com)

For feedback and suggestions for 'Science', please write to **science@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Daily page'

Prestige GROUP
Add Prestige to your life

It's always better with

forum
SOUTH BENGALURU
J P NAGAR

THE SALE THAT'S TAKING OVER THE CITY!

UP TO 50% OFF ON TOP BRANDS*

T&C Apply

H&M
SHOPPERS STOP
START SOMETHING NEW
lifestyle
homecentre

AND MORE!

The Better Bigger Sale

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Number of Syrians who have returned home since Assad's fall

2 In million. Over two million Syrians who had fled their homes during the country's war have returned since the ouster of Bashar al-Assad, according to the UN refugee agency. The Syrian civil war, which erupted in 2011 with Assad's repression of anti-government protests, displaced half of the population internally or abroad. Assad's ouster at the hands of Islamist forces sparked hopes of return. AFP

The surge in Indian-owned businesses in the U.K.

23 In per cent. The number of Indian-owned companies operating in the U.K. has reached 1,197 this year, recording the steepest pace of annual growth. The combined revenues reported by Indian-owned companies in the U.K. increased to GBP 72.14 billion from GBP 68.09 billion in 2024, according to the annual 'India Meets Britain Tracker'. REUTERS

Death toll from floods in the Eastern Cape region in South Africa

92 South Africa was under a declared state of national disaster on Thursday as the death toll from floods caused by severe rains in the Eastern Cape region rose to 92. Speaking at the public memorial service, Zolile Williams, a member of the executive council, said the people of the coastal province have not been the same since the disaster hit. AP

Number of persons in Gaza killed in Israeli fire on Thursday

72 Gaza's civil defence agency said that Israeli fire killed at least 72 people in the Palestinian territory, including 21 who had gathered near an aid distribution site. The Israeli army said that troops had fired "warning shots" at "suspects" approaching them in the Netzarim area where the civil defence agency said 15 people were killed waiting for aid. AFP

The amount of Indian money parked in Swiss banks in 2024

3.5 In billion Swiss francs (nearly ₹37,600 crore). Indian money parked in Swiss banks more than tripled in 2024 on the back of a huge jump in funds held through local branches and other financial institutions, annual data released by Switzerland's central bank showed on Thursday. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Follow us facebook.com/thehindu twitter.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

Why India should address its propulsion gap

Is India overly reliant on imported engines? What happened to the HF-24 Marut, India's first indigenously designed fighter jet? Why has the Kaveri engine project not been able to come to fruition? How is India affected by foreign engine supply delays? Is only the Indian Air Force affected by such dependency?

EXPLAINER

Rahul Bedi

The story so far:

There has been growing excitement in military and industrial circles over the fast-tracked indigenous fifth generation stealth Advanced Medium Combat Aircraft (AMCA). Touted as a multi-role fighter with super-cruise capability, internal weapons bays, advanced avionics, and diverter-less supersonic intakes enhancing stealth and reliability, the AMCA is being hailed as a milestone in Indian aerospace history. However, a dose of historical realism is warranted particularly since India has a persistent propulsion gap, and is overly reliant on imported engines. Nearly seven decades of fighter development reveal cautionary lessons, starting with India's first indigenously designed fighter jet, the HF-24 Marut (Spirit of the Tempest).

Long-term vision: Three HF-24 Marut aircraft of the IAF flying in formation over Rajpath, New Delhi. THE HINDU ARCHIVES

What happened to the HF-24 Marut?

Launched in the 1950s by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) under famed German engineer Kurt Tank – designer of several WWII Luftwaffe fighters – the twin-engine, swept-wing Marut was, like the AMCA, an ambitious project of its time. Sleek and capable of transonic speeds, it embodied post-colonial India's drive for self-reliance and entered service amid high hopes in the late 1960s.

However, the Marut never reached its full potential, not because of design flaws, but entirely due to its underpowered British Bristol Siddeley Orpheus 703 turbojets. Although Tank had envisioned a more powerful engine, it never materialised, leaving the Marut's performance underwhelming. And, while it performed reasonably well in ground-attack roles during the 1971 war on the western front, its propulsion limitations ultimately proved crippling. HAL produced only 147 of these high-maintenance, low-output fighters, which were eventually 'number-plated' or retired by 1990.

Indian Air Force (IAF) veterans who flew the Marut consistently cited the lack of a powerful engine as its Achilles' heel – highlighting the enduring reality that high-end fighters live or die by propulsion technology. Engines, after all, are not mere technical parts but the core of sovereign aerospace capability, shaping a combat aircraft's power, range, and mission effectiveness.

Did India develop its own engines?

Following the Marut's disappointing engine performance, the Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO) assigned its Gas Turbine Research Establishment (GTRE) laboratory in 1989 to develop the Kaveri GTX-35VS afterburning turbofan for the Light Combat Aircraft (LCA), which had been under design development since 1981-82.

Over the next 35 years, GTRE spent around ₹2032 crore, as of 2020, on the project, but without success. Despite producing nine full-scale prototypes and four core engines – logging over 3,000 hours of ground testing and 73 hours of flight trials on an Ilyushin IL-76 flying test bed in Russia – the Kaveri failed to meet the LCA's performance benchmarks. It struggled with thrust-to-weight ratio, reliability, and thermal management under sustained high-performance conditions. Though spinoff versions were proposed for tanks, ships, and locomotives, none have so far entered operational use.

A revival attempt in 2016, in collaboration with French engine-maker Snecma (linked to offset obligations from the IAF's Rafale deal) also collapsed. A parallel proposal by its partner Safran to co-develop a new engine for the Tejas MkII and AMCA met a similar fate, reportedly rejected by the DRDO due to institutional pride.

Meanwhile, Kaveri's failure forced the Aeronautical Development Agency (ADA), responsible for the LCA's design, to adopt the U.S.-made General Electric (GE) F404-IN20 afterburning turbofan engine (producing 78-80 kN of thrust) around 2004. Although barely adequate – restricting Tejas' payload and high-angle-of-attack capabilities – the engine was eventually approved by the IAF, which inducted two Mk1 squadrons from 2015 onwards, with one squadron operating without full operational clearance, nearly 34 years after the LCA programme's inception.

How is India affected by engine dependency?

India's engine dependency issues resurfaced recently when GE delayed delivery of 99 F404 engines by 13 months for the upgraded LCA Mk1A – a lighter, more capable variant equipped with an Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radar, advanced electronic warfare suites, and mid-air refuelling capability. Under a $716 million contract signed in 2021, engine deliveries were scheduled to begin by March 2024, but the first power pack arrived only in April 2025, as part of an initial batch of 12 expected by the end of the year. GE cited "unprecedented supply chain pressures," including disruptions from suppliers, as the cause for the delay, but for India it jeopardised the MK1As commissioning by deferring it further.

This triggered sharp criticism from Air Chief Marshal A.P. Singh, who publicly rebuked HAL for chronic slippages in fighter deliveries amid a steep decline in IAF combat strength from a sanctioned 42.5 fighter squadrons to around 30 presently. Further reductions loom with two legacy MiG-21 'Bis' squadrons slated for imminent retirement. "We need to be now ready to be future-ready," Mr. Singh said at the CII Annual Business Summit in New Delhi on May 29. Citing HAL's blotted history of missed deadlines, he bluntly asserted that wars are won by equipping the military, not merely planning for the future.

Simultaneously, HAL's negotiations with GE to locally manufacture the more powerful GE-F414 engine (90-96 kN thrust) – intended for the LCA Mk2 and initially the AMCA Mk1 – too has hit a roadblock. The deal, announced during Prime Minister Narendra Modi's 2023 U.S. visit, has reportedly been stalled by GE's demand for an additional $500 million over the original $1.5 billion agreement.

More critically, GE appears unwilling to share core engine technologies like single-crystal turbine blades, thermal barrier coatings, and advanced cooling systems, all of which are vital for boosting engine durability and thrust. HAL continues to demand full technology transfer, but industry insiders point out that such proprietary know-how, developed at great expense, is rarely shared by global engine makers. Talks, however, are still ongoing.

Both the LCA Mk2, which is under-development, and the initial AMCA Mk1 models are expected to rely on the F414 as a 'stopgap' powerplant, pending finalisation of the deal. The ADA is also scouting for a 110 kN-class engine for the AMCA Mk2, potentially via a joint venture. Intermittent discussions with France's Safran and the U.K.'s Rolls-Royce have so far yielded no concrete outcome.

And, while these possibilities may serve as a short-term workaround, it reflects the same external engine dependence that had crippled the Marut. Consequently, a cross-section of IAF veterans and aerospace experts warned that unless India developed an indigenous engine to power future AMCA blocks, the programme risks being held hostage once again to geopolitical whims.

How much is India dependent on external engines?

India's external propulsion sourcing extends well beyond aerial platforms, affecting the Army and Navy as well, both of which are exclusively reliant on imported power packs or foreign engines assembled and built domestically under licence. The Army's Arjun Main Battle Tank, for example, is powered by the German MTU MB838 Ka-501 diesel engine paired with RENK RK-304 transmissions, while the recently trialled Zorawar Light Tank uses the U.S.-origin 1,000hp Cummins Advanced Combat Engine. The Navy too depends wholly on foreign propulsion systems – Russian, Ukrainian, French, German, and U.S. engines – that power all its indigenously designed and built frigates, destroyers, auxiliary vessels, troop carriers, corvettes, and fast attack craft. India's all-round engine development across aerospace, land, and naval platforms is critical to ensure strategic autonomy and enhance military capability.

How important is autonomous engine development ?

Aircraft engine development is vital for India to achieve aerospace autonomy and strategic self-reliance. Disruptions in foreign engine supplies delay production like that of the LCA Mk1A, hampers upgrades, and restricts exports as that would necessitate third-party approvals. The U.S., France, and China are able to assert dominance in global aerospace markets as they have harnessed indigenous propulsion.

However, for India, mastering advanced jet engine technology is not merely a prestige project but is crucial to sustaining military readiness, ensuring credible deterrence, and insulating its defence sector from external shocks and global political vagaries. Without this core capability, India's broader ambitions in aviation and defence exports risk remaining perennially compromised.

A broad spectrum of defence experts and IAF veterans contend that India's failure to develop advanced jet engines transcend technical hurdles and are fundamentally a political challenge. India's defence funding remains fragmented, largely focused on short-term projects, rather than being driven by a long-term, strategic vision.

If India is genuinely committed to closing this glaring capability gap, mere slogans like *Atmanirbhar Bharat* will not suffice. Achieving true autonomy in engine technology demands comprehensive structural reforms, unwavering political will, and the cultivation of an innovation ecosystem which will seamlessly integrate private sector participation, academic research, and defence R&D institutions into a cohesive and competitive framework.

Rahul Bedi is a veteran journalist based in New Delhi and Chandigarh specialising in military, defence and security matters.

THE GIST

- Launched in the 1950s by Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) under famed German engineer Kurt Tank —designer of several WWII Luftwaffe fighters — the twin-engine, swept-wing Marut was, like the AMCA, an ambitious project of its time.
- India's engine dependency issues resurfaced recently when GE delayed delivery of 99 F404 engines by 13 months for the upgraded LCA Mk1A.
- India's external propulsion sourcing extends well beyond aerial platforms, affecting the Army and Navy as well, both of which are exclusively reliant on imported power packs.

AI plane crash, geopolitical tensions affect international travel plans

Many say the uncertainty around flight schedules is making them apprehensive to travel abroad

Jahnavi T. R.
BENGALURU

The recent accident involving the London-bound Air India flight in Ahmedabad disrupted flight schedules across carriers adding to the geopolitical tensions and visa issues that have had an impact on the international travel plans of people from Bengaluru.

Many are changing their destinations from international to domestic, while others are postponing their plans to later months.

"We have been seeing a lot of impact on the ground as people do not want to travel abroad now. Those who had sought itineraries and other details are not confirming their plans anymore. The schedules of most airlines are now disrupted. A low-budget Thailand carrier just informed us that they will not be operating their flights from July," said Firoze from Travel of India in R.T. Nagar.

He said that while destinations like Dubai, Qatar, Turkey, and Azerbaijan are being avoided by tourists for geopolitical reasons, it has become difficult to get Schengen visas to travel to Europe.

"This is the time when a lot of people travel to Europe, as the weather will be pleasant. But 80% of our travellers are facing visa rejections," he said.

The tour operators point out even domestic travel has been impacted by the early arrival of the southwest monsoon. FILE PHOTO

Travellers said that the uncertainty around flight schedules is making them apprehensive about traveling abroad.

"I had recently travelled to Mumbai and my return flight to Bengaluru was delayed as it was just two days after the Ahmedabad plane crash, and there was a disruption in schedules. I also keep seeing maps on the internet every day where many airspaces are being avoided by international carriers. I first wanted to travel to Turkey - Jordan, but had to drop it for geopolitical reasons. Then I wanted to travel to Southeast Asia, but dropped that too as there was news about COVID-19 cases rising again. I am thinking of waiting for six more months before I travel abroad again," said Vishwanathan K., an avid traveller from Bengaluru.

Another resident of the city, Shwetha Kumari, said that she opted for a domestic destination for safety reasons.

"I wanted to travel to Dubai in June-July as not many people go there in this season. Now, after assessing the tensions everywhere and seeing flight schedules, I have decided to travel to Madhya Pradesh or Maharashtra, as those places are nice to see in the monsoon and it is easier to return home no matter what happens," she said.

Even domestic travel has been affected due to the early arrival of the southwest monsoon, the tour operators said. However, tour operators said that their losses have not been huge as the holiday season of April-May just got over.

"In June, we generally see fewer bookings to the Middle East because of the summer heat, and this is a bit of a non-season for large-scale travel plans. But there is some sort of panic among the other people who would like to travel too. It might subside in a few weeks," said the manager at Ujwal International Holidays in Chamrajpet.

Two AI international flights from Bengaluru cancelled

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Two international flights of Air India from Bengaluru were cancelled on Thursday. Air India flight AI 175 from Bengaluru to San Francisco, which was scheduled to depart at 1.20 p.m., was cancelled, and another flight AI 133 bound to London's Heathrow, which was scheduled to depart at 2.15 p.m., was also cancelled, the sources at the Kempegowda International Airport said.

Air India on Wednesday announced that it will be cutting down international flight services on widebody aircraft (Boeing 787 and 777 aircraft), that mostly connect long haul and ultra-long-haul destinations by 15%.

While the Bengaluru-London flight is a Boeing 787, the Bengaluru-San Francisco flight is a Boeing 777-200LR aircraft. The direct distance between Bengaluru and San Francisco is approximately 13,993 km, and this is said to be the longest commercial flight in the world to be operated by Air India or any other airline in India.

Air India said that the Bengaluru-London (Heathrow) flight services will be reduced from seven flights a week to six flights a week. The reduction in the flights on this route will be effective from June 21 and last until at least July 15, the airline said.

HC orders release of accused on interim bail in extortion case

FROM THE COURT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The High Court of Karnataka ordered the release of Ningappa G., alias Ningappa Savant, a former police head constable, on interim bail on Thursday, citing a procedural lapse in his arrest in the case of extortion of crores of rupees from public servants by leaking information about possible Lokayukta raids. Ningappa is the prime accused in the case. Justice S.R. Krishna Kumar passed the interim order on a petition filed by his wife, Chandrakala G.K.

Interestingly, the Lokayukta police informed the High Court that Ningappa could be released on interim bail, subject to certain conditions. The court said that it would release the interim order by incorporating the conditions.

It was pointed out in the petition that the Lokayukta police had failed to produce the accused before the jurisdictional magistrate within 24 hours of his arrest. His wife had pointed out that the Lokayukta police had falsely projected the date of arrest as June 2 and the location of arrest as Bengaluru, even though he was taken into custody on May 31 at Hosadurga taluk in Chitradurga district.

'Complete Yelahanka Upanagara-Doddaballapur Main Road flyover by Dec.'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Chief Commissioner M. Maheshwar Rao has directed officials to ensure the completion of the ongoing flyover construction on the Yelahanka Upanagara-Doddaballapur Main Road by the end of December 2025.

During an inspection near Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan Main Road in Yelahanka Zone's Yelahanka Upanagara limits, he stated that 60% of the 2-km-long flyover construction on Doddaballapur Main Road has been completed. He instructed officials and contractors to expedite and complete the remaining work within the stipulated timeline.

The pedestrian pathway along Major Sandeep Unnikrishnan Main Road has collapsed at certain points, causing inconvenience to the public. He directed officials to immediately undertake repair work, including the installation of curb stones and restoration of the damaged sections.

M. Maheshwar Rao

He also noted that iron rods from a transformer pole installed by Bescom are protruding close to ground level on the footpath, creating a hazard for pedestrians and instructed the officials from the power utility to rectify the issue without delay.

Penalty for littering

During the inspection of the 16th B Cross Road in Yelahanka Upanagara, some shopkeepers dumped waste on the footpath. He directed marshals to impose fines on the offenders and instructed them to warn shopkeepers not to dump waste along the roadside or in vacant plots in the future.

At Chikkabommasandra Cross, it was found that slabs had not been installed on a 15-meter stretch of the pedestrian path. He instructed the officials concerned to install the slabs immediately to ensure safe passage for pedestrians.

Illegal constructions

It was observed that a building was being constructed in violation of the approved plan on the 1st Main Road in A-Sector of Yelahanka Upanagara. He instructed officials to issue notices under the BBMP Act, 2020, and remove the unauthorized portions of the building. He also directed officials to take strict action against all buildings within the Yelahanka Zone that are being constructed in violation of approved plans.

Emphasising the importance of proper upkeep, he instructed officials to submit proposals for annual maintenance funds for newly built infrastructure in Yelahanka Upanagar, including the watchtower, cycle track, car tower, "Kannada Akshara Male" installation, and decorative lighting.

Concrete around the base of trees to be cleared to check mishaps

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) will remove concrete, pavement stones, and cement blocks from around the base of the roadside trees.

This is to prevent the loss of life and infrastructure from treefall during heavy winds or rains.

In an order passed on Thursday, Preeti Gehlot, Special Commissioner, Forest Department, BBMP, said, "The bases of the trees planted during BBMP's afforestation drive are blocked by concrete, tar, or pedestrian paths made of interlocked pavers. This has had an impact on the health, growth, and survival of the trees owing to insufficient air and water inflow. Thus, the roots of the trees do not grow deep into the ground leading to treefall."

She said that as per the National Green Tribunal, the concrete/pavers/blocks installed in a one-metre radius of the trees should be removed with immediate effect.

Further, a space of one metre around trees will be left free of cement and levelled with soil to facilitate the flow of water into the roots. On narrow roads, a minimum of one sq. metre area around the trees should be free of concrete or they should be left in the kutcha state.

Major railway infrastructure upgrades under way in city: DRM

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The 38-km Bengaluru Cantonment - Whitefield quadrupling project, fully funded by the Railways, is progressing steadily, he says

Ashutosh Kumar Singh, Divisional Railway Manager (DRM) of South Western Railway's Bengaluru Division, on Wednesday said that a host of infrastructure projects and proposals by the division, aimed at decongesting rail traffic and improving commuter experience in the city and surrounding areas, have been planned.

Among the key updates, the DRM said that the 38-km Bengaluru Cantonment-Whitefield quadrupling project, fully funded by the Railways at a cost of ₹492.87 crore, is progressing steadily.

"Redevelopment works are under way at Bengaluru Cantonment and Yeshwantpur railway stations, with investments of ₹484.58 crore and ₹377.86 crore, respectively. These revamps will include modern station buildings, air concourses, escalators, lifts, solar power systems, sewage treatment plants, and parking structures," he added.

The Yeshwantpur-Channasandra doubling (25 km, ₹683.57 crore) and Baiyyappanahalli-Hosur doubling (48 km, ₹1,148 crore) projects are also advancing, with the latter already 83% complete. "Meanwhile, new lines such as the Marikuppam-Kuppam (23.7 km) and Bettahalsoor-Rajanukunte bypass (6.14 km) are in various stages of construction and land acquisition," Mr. Singh said.

He said the final location surveys have been sanctioned for several projects, including the much-anticipated 288-km Bengaluru Circular Rail. DPRs for other expansion plans, such as the quadrupling of the Baiyyappanahalli-Hosur and the Bengaluru-Tumakuru lines are under way and would be submitted by August 2025.

Hebbal flyover to remain closed

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Bengaluru traffic police, on Thursday, said the Hebbal flyover will remain closed for vehicular movement on the nights of June 20 and 21, to facilitate asphalting work being carried out by the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike.

As per the advisory, the flyover will be shut from 11.30 pm to 5 am on both nights. The closure is applicable to all categories of vehicles, release stated.

To minimise inconvenience, commuters travelling from Kempegowda International Airport towards city have been advised to use an alternate route. The suggested diversion begins with a right turn at Hebbal Circle, followed by movement through the Tumakuru Outer Ring Road.

Timings
BENGALURU

FRIDAY, JUN. 20	
RISE 05:55	SET 18:48
RISE 01:02	SET 13:41
SATURDAY, JUN. 21	
RISE 05:55	SET 18:48
RISE 01:46	SET 14:39
SUNDAY, JUN. 22	
RISE 05:55	SET 18:48
RISE 02:32	SET 15:41

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	32	25
Mysuru	29	20
Bengaluru	28	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be dry. Day will be slight warm. Night will be pleasant.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
30°C Morning will be pleasant. Day will be slight warm. Mosty dry weather to prevail.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2025
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

ISRO announces 'Bharatiya Antariksh Hackathon 2025'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced a nationwide innovation challenge, 'Bharatiya Antariksh Hackathon 2025', with Hack2skill as the innovation partner. It was launched by ISRO Chairman V. Narayanan on Wednesday.

ISRO has called upon undergraduates, graduates, postgraduates, and PhD scholars to participate in the hackathon. It said that working professionals are not eligible. The last date for submission of proposals is July 9.

"The Bharatiya Antariksh Hackathon 2025 is where bold ideas meet real-world space challenges. As India accelerates its journey in space research and exploration, this hackathon invites the country's brightest minds to step up and drive the next wave of innovation. With problem statements directly from ISRO, participants will get the unique opportunity to apply their skills, think creatively, and build solutions that could shape the future of India's space missions," the space agency said in a statement on Thursday.

14 challenges

There are 14 challenges in total, and registered participants will have to choose a challenge provided by ISRO.

Interested persons can register through Hack2skill's website.

SWR saves ₹4 crore by generating 6.72 million units of power

Darshan Devaiah B.P.
BENGALURU

In a push towards sustainable infrastructure and energy independence, South Western Railway (SWR) has saved nearly ₹4 crore in the financial year 2024-25 by generating 6.72 million units of solar power, marking an 18.1% increase from the previous year.

According to officials, this aligns with Indian Railways' mission to become the world's first 100% green railway network by 2030. The initiative spans across the three divisions of Hubballi, Bengaluru, and Mysuru, as well as their respective workshops.

Locations

Manjunath Kanmadi, Chief Public Relations Officer of South Western Railway, said, "Rooftop and ground-mounted solar plants have been installed at stations, offices, level crossings, residential quarters, and even running rooms."

SWR has installed solar panels at 148 railway stations, ensuring that a significant portion of station operations now run on clean energy. In addition, 32 service buildings and 141 level crossing gates across the region have been equipped with rooftop solar panels. To further enhance off-grid energy access, 22 solar-powered pumps have also been installed.

Fact sheet

- Total solar power generated: 6.72 million units
- Total savings: ₹4 crore in the financial year 2024–25
- Divisions covered: Hubballi, Bengaluru, Mysuru
- Stations with solar panels 148
- Service buildings: 32
- Level crossing gates: 141
- Solar pumps installed: 22

Source: South Western Railway

Solar energy savings

The Hubballi division added 487 kWp of rooftop solar in FY 2024-25 alone, bringing its total installed capacity to 3,036 kWp. "Caranzol and Kalgurki stations, previously off-grid, are now fully solar-powered. The 100 kWp solar plant at Dharwad station alone generated 1.33 lakh units, meeting 37% of the station's electricity needs," Mr. Kanmadi explained.

According to SWR, the Bengaluru division expanded its solar capacity to 1,473 kWp, with new installations at the MEMU Shed Banaswadi (85 kWp) and the DRM office. The division saved ₹9.5 lakh annually through solar energy. Mysuru division added 55 kWp of solar capacity, bringing its total to 887 kWp.

Dual model

"SWR's solar plants are maintained under a dual model: CAPEX, where maintenance is managed by the Railways, and OPEX (RESCO model), where developers handle operations for 25 years under Power Purchase Agreements. Our solar expansion is not just about cost savings, but also about creating an environmentally conscious railway network," said Mr. Kanmadi.

Two killed in separate accidents

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 40-year-old woman riding a scooter was killed after a speeding truck knocked her down in Guttahalli, under Thirumalashettyhalli police station limits on Wednesday .

The deceased was identified as Trevani, a private firm employee. The police have registered a case of hit-and-run, and are conducting further investigation.

In another incident, a 25-year-old private firm employee was killed in Surya city police station limits on Wednesday. The deceased, identified as Bharath, a resident of Chandapura, was walking home from work.

The police have registered a case and efforts are under way to track down the vehicle.

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT. LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRP Act).
ISSN 0971 - 751X

IN THE LIMELIGHT

A still from *Narivetta*.

When the silver screen gives space to tribal land struggles

Kerala has a strong, eventful, and often forgotten history of land struggles by tribal societies, with some of them being made into movies. However, there is a line that distinguishes genuine representation from mere tools for character building

Vighnesh P. Venkitesh

In Khalid Rahman's *Unda* (2019), a police officer from Kerala, played by Mammootty, who is given the responsibility of leading a team of officers to ensure that elections are conducted smoothly in Maoist-hit areas of Chhattisgarh, says to a tribal boy, "This is your land, do not die".

Kerala has a strong, eventful, and often forgotten history of land struggles by tribal societies. While often sidelined, these struggles occasionally get its hands bloody (or find itself bleeding) and land a blow on the conscience of mainstream society, becoming the topic of intellectual discussions for a while, after which they again move to the shadows.

However, once in a while, the Malayalam movie industry takes note of these events with either subtle nods inside a story or by creating an entire movie around such events.

Three movies, different perspectives

While Ranjan Pramod's *Photographer* (2006), K.M. Kamal's *Pada* (2022) and the recently released *Narivetta* by Anuraj Manohar effectively do only what the events themselves did – that is, nudge these issues into discourse for a short while – by etching them permanently in film however makes sure that the struggles of some of the most exploited communities are not forgotten.

All three of the movies mentioned above are centred on or framed against the backdrop of the struggle of tribal communities in Kerala for autonomy over their own land, and how the State responded.

In Narivetta, which is based on the true events surrounding the Muthanga protests and subsequent police shootings and brutalities, the protagonist finds himself being a complicit part of the state machinery that is working to put out a peaceful protest by tribals for land that was promised to them. In *Photographer,* starring Mohanlal, the protagonist encounters a tribal boy facing police violence in a forest area. This was also based on the Muthanga incident detailed in *Narivetta*.

In *Pada*, the makers revisit the actions of the 'Ayyankali Pada' – the youth organisation of the Kerala Communist Party formed under Maoist ideologies by former members of a Marxist-Leninist organisation that was dissolved in 1991. *Pada* shows how four members of the Ayyankali Pada held the collector of the Palakkad district hostage in response to amendments made to the Kerala Scheduled Tribes (Restriction on Transfer of Lands and Restoration of Alienated Lands) (KST) Act, 1975, in 1996. The KST Act deemed all tribal lands in the possession of non-tribal people through sale, lease, mortgage or by force after 1960 illegal, giving way for tribal people to take back their land. But it was never implemented in the way it was envisioned. In 1993, the Kerala High Court ordered the State government to implement the Act within six months, but that too went unfulfilled with the State asking for continuous extensions. And finally in 1996, the the Left-led government under E.K. Nayanar passed an amendment making transactions of tribal land made till 1986 legal.

While *Pada* is an immediate response to the amendment, events of *Narivetta* take place after years of unfulfilled promises regarding the question of tribal land. While it can be criticised that the movie took the spotlight away from the struggling tribal people and gave it to the protagonist (highlighting his 'saviour complex'), it manages to disturb the blissful existence of the comfort class, much like Vetri Maaran with his *Visaaranai* and *Viduthalai*.

Lesser-valued lives

While it is commendable that movie makers choose to portray such events and bring them back to public discourse, there is a line that distinguishes genuine representation from mere tools for character building. Arousing sympathy in the audience for the downtrodden can easily slip away into re-establishing class politics. What *Narivetta* fails to do is break away from the idea of the need for a saviour to help bring up the downtrodden.

It is necessary here to note another police movie that came out in Malayalam, a slow burner, that can describe the Muthanga incident in an even powerful way than *Narivetta*. *Kuttavum Sikshayum* (2022) by Rajeev Ravi is a simple tale of a group of policemen going out of their home turf in search of the accused who got away with a jewellery store heist. But the lead actor played by Asif Ali is plagued by his past, a montage that the movie opens with, where he shoots down a protester from an advancing group in a forest area. While the movie contains the disclaimer that the events are fictional, the protest can be compared to the Muthanga incident. But what *Kuttavum Sikhshayum* does is wrap up the whole conflict in a monologue before entering the climax, where the police officer opines how the killing, from the bullet that he fired, has vanished now, with no evidence and no one held responsible.

The character played by Alencier, a subordinate to the protagonist, listens silently as the protagonist describes how protesters pelting stones forced the then-young officer to shoot, and how his aim went at the protester's chest rather than his legs, how higher officials saved him from any serious actions save enforced leave and how he is still tormented by the act.

Alencier then breaks the fourth wall and stares at the audience for a split second, maybe to remind them of the killing, asking them how it got swept under the rug. Near the end of the movie, the protagonist once again, with a gun in his hand, comes face to face with a person who could pose harm to him. But the police officer does not shoot.

Struggle for property has been a part of human life ever since nomadic hunter gatherers decided to settle down and cultivate the land around them. And for tribal people, who co-exist with 'modern' society, this struggle is not just for stability, but for existence. And cinema has its own way of reminding society of these struggles.

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

The 21st edition of the FIFA Club World Cup got underway at the Hard Rock Stadium in Miami, U.S. on June 14. A quiz on the history of this inter-club championship

N. Soorya Prakash

QUESTION 1
Which is the only city in the U.S. that will have two stadia hosting the FIFA Club World Cup 2025?

QUESTION 2
Which venue is scheduled to host the final of the FIFA Club World Cup 2025?

QUESTION 3
Which football club holds the record of having played and won five finals of FIFA Club World Cup, the most for any team?

QUESTION 4
Which football club holds the record of having participated in the FIFA Club World Cup the most times?

QUESTION 5
Which country has hosted the FIFA Club World Cup the most times?

QUESTION 6
Who is the only player to have won the Golden Ball twice in the 20-year old history of the FIFA Club World Cup?

QUESTION 7
Who is the only player to have scored a hat-trick in the final of FIFA Club World Cup?

Visual question:
Identify this player who holds the record of having played and won all of his six finals of FIFA Club World Cup, the most for any player? AFP

Questions and Answers to the previous day's daily quiz:
1. Garfield was born here. **Ans: In the kitchen of Mamma Leoni's Italian Restaurant**
2. This was one of Garfield's favourite sayings. **Ans: Big fat hairy deal**
3. This was Jon Arbuckle's profession in the comic strip. **Ans: Cartoonist**
4. The name of Jon's brown-eared beagle. **Ans: Odie**
5. This comedian voiced Garfield in the 2004 live action movie. **Ans: Bill Murray**
Visual: This is Garfield's favourite movie. **Ans: *Old Yeller***

Early Birds: Piyali Tuli| Siddhartha Viswanathan| Suchit Narottam| Sukdev Shet| Tushit Pratap Singh

FROM THE ARCHIVES

Know your English

K. Subrahmanian
S. Upendran

"This book looks interesting. Is it good?"

"It's a yawner."

"A what?"

"A 'yawner'. Do you know what a 'yawn' is?"

"Of course, I do. I yawn every day in physics class."

"I am sure you do. And you yawn because you find physics boring. When you describe something as being a 'yawner', you mean it is boring. For example, my favourite star's latest movie is a yawner."

"Can I say the Principal's speech was a yawner?"

"You certainly can. Why don't you walk up to your physics professor one of these days and tell him, 'Your lecture, Sir, was a yawner'."

"I would be kicked out of class."

"I know. But you don't wish to study any further, do you?"

"I most certainly do. Which reminds me, is there a difference between 'further' and 'farther'?"

"Well, it depends."

"What do you mean by that?"

"If you are talking about distance, then both words can be used interchangeably. For example, I can say, the new movie theatre is further down the road. Or I could say, the new movie theatre is farther down the road."

"I see. 'How much further do we have to go?' and 'How much farther do we have to go?' Both are acceptable. Is that what you're saying?"

"Yes, that's right. 'What's the furthest you have run?' and 'What's the farthest you have run?' have the same meaning."

"In short, what you're saying is that the two words can be used interchangeably in all situations."

"No, I'm not. I'm saying that the words can be used interchangeably when you're talking about distance. But when you want to mean 'more', 'extra' or 'additional', then only 'further' can be used. You cannot use 'farther'. For example, Suresh is planning to go to Australia for further studies. I cannot say, Suresh is planning to go to Australia for farther studies."

"So, I will have to say, if you need any further information, write to me. In this sentence, 'further' means 'more'."

"You're right. Here's another example. The Government managed to raise a further ten crore. In this sentence, 'further' means..."

"....'extra' or 'additional'. The government managed to raise an additional ten crore. I think we should put an end to this discussion."

"Very good! Now, if you'll excuse me, I have to make a call to Sandhya."

"I heard that she failed her tenth standard exam again. Is she depressed?"

"Sandhya, depressed? No way! She's a happy-go-lucky person."

"Happy-go-lucky? What does it mean?"

"A 'happy-go-lucky' person is an optimist. He/she feels that everything will turn out fine. No matter what the situation is."

Published in The Hindu on December 17, 1996.

Word of the day

Abstruse:
difficult to penetrate; incomprehensible to one of ordinary understanding or knowledge

Synonyms: deep, profound

Usage: *Some sentences in his article are unusual and abstruse.*

Pronunciation: newsth.live/abstrusepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /əb'stɹuːs/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

Never Before, Never After Initiatives

- Under the Visionary leadership of **Hon'ble CM Sri Siddaramaiah, Hon'ble DCM Sri D.K. Shivakumar,** and Hon'ble Minister Sri N.S. Boseraju, the Departments of Minor Irrigation, Science & Technology have launched impactful initiatives benefiting lakhs of farmers & citizens across Karnataka.
- The Minor Irrigation Department has strengthened water access through lake rejuvenation, Check dams, Bunds, Lift irrigation, BCB and Borewells boosting Agriculture and Groundwater Recharge.
- In Science outreach, New Science Centers have been established to spark curiosity in young minds.
- Through HN, KC & V - Valley Projects, Treated Sewage water from Bangalore city is being used to replenish 666 lakes to boost the groundwater levels in the surrounding drought-prone districts. Rooted in principles of Circular economy, Resource Regeneration & Sustainable Development, these Eco-friendly projects are serving as templates for the Entire nation in Reusing treated sewage water to Recharge & Restore Groundwater potential.

Under the Dynamic leadership of
Sri N. S. Boseraju
Hon'ble Minister for
Minor Irrigation,
Science & Technology

Marked a significant **28%** rise in Ground water recharge, a key indicator of Sustainable Water Management.

627 Checkdams, barrages, pickaps and vented dams constructed

1500 MCFT water storage

Geotagging of **31,000+ lakes** to preserve State's water bodies from Encroachments.

16 Lift Irrigation Projects completed

142 tanks filled

in 2 years **6,758** Projects approved for worth of **4,492 Crs**

18,500 hectares of Achukattu areas land have been positively impacted

875 MCFT Water Storage

1,080 Hectares of land brought under irrigation.

Transparent governance
Financial prudence and impartial administration upheld consistently over the last two years.

Groundwater Boost
Lift Irrigation Projects have increased groundwater recharge by **28.6%** through tank filling.

Green Energy Drive
Green Energy Drive Plans are underway to install **Floating Solar** panels on **40+ lakes** (100+ acres each), making Minor irrigation Department self-sufficient.

Vrishabhavathi Valley Project
1,081 Crs V-Valley Project is currently in progress aiming to replenish **70 lakes** across Bangalore city and Surrounding Districts using treated sewage water.

Reviving Lifelines: 407 lakes recharged in Kolar, Chikkaballapura and Bengaluru Rural under HN &KC vally projects.

Major Farmer Support: Lift Irrigation Projects worth **1,889.8 Crs.** launched to benefit Karnataka's farmers.

Empowering Marginal Farmers: Under SCP/TSP, **5,371 SC/ST farmers** benefited the borewells.

Sustainable water Use: works worth **₹1,201.52 Crs.** implemented under the Atal Bhujal Yojana for groundwater sustainability.

SCIENCE for ALL

SCIENCE & TECHNOLOGY

IGNITE - INSPIRE - INNOVATE

Under the PAT policy, Telescopes are being distributed to **833 schools** across Karnataka, at the cost of **₹3 Crs.** to foster scientific curiosity among students.

We are setting up Science labs in Government schools to promote activity-based learning to foster scientific curiosity among students.

Establishing Science Centres in All Districts of the state.

Science for All
New Sub-Regional Science Centres established in Udupi, Haveri, Koppala, Tumakuru, Davanagere & Chittapur

Planetarium
New Planetarium inaugurated in Gadag to boost Astronomical Curiosity in North Karnataka.

Dr H.Narasimhaiah Development Authority
Development authority constituted to Promote Science, Education, Culture, and Tourism of Hosur, Vidurashwatta, Gauribidanur and Chikkaballapur as Science-tourism destinations.

Boosting Science Education

Inaugurated U. R. Rao Bhavan with Centre State funding.

Mobile Digital Planetarium visited **2,552** schools with **15,240** Astronomy shows reaching **5.77 lakh** students & teachers.

State-of-the-art Science City project Near Bengaluru initiated at a cost of **₹300Crs.**

Funding Innovation & R&D

₹32.90 Crs. sanctioned to support Research & Development projects.

Established Science Gallery in Bengaluru at a cost of **₹50 Crs.** & provided corpus fund of **10 Crs.**

Global Science Platforms
- 13th India Nano Summit successfully held in Bengaluru with **800+** global delegates.
- Bengaluru India Quantum International Summit will be held on July 31st and August 1st, 2025.

DELIVERED AS PROMISED — Free bus service for Shakti | Anna Bhagya 10kg | Gruha Jyothi UPTO 200 units | Gruha Lakshmi ₹2000 | Yuva Nidhi ₹3000 ₹1500

The Constitutional Fundamental duty of every Indian is to protect public property and renounce violence

Case against HDK: High Court stays formation of SIT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

H.D. Kumaraswamy

The High Court of Karnataka on Thursday stayed a Government Order (GO) constituting a Special Investigating Team (SIT) to examine the alleged encroachment of certain portions of government land by Union Minister H.D. Kumaraswamy adjoining the one owned by him, at Kethaganahalli village of Bidadi hobli in Ramanagara taluk of Bengaluru South district.

Justice E.S. Indiresh passed the interim order on a petition filed by Mr. Kumaraswamy questioning the legality of the GO, issued on January 28, 2025, constituting the SIT, led by the Bengaluru Regional Commissioner.

Appearing for Mr. Kumaraswamy, senior advocate Udaya Holla along with advocate Nishanth A.V., contended that the GO had no legal existence in the eyes of law as it was not a "notification" as it was not published in the official gazette. Section 195 of the Karnataka Land Revenue Act, 1964 and Section 8 of the Karnataka Land Grabbing Prohibition Act, 2011 mandate issuance of "notification" for delegation of power, and the meaning of "notification" was "a notification published in the official gazette" as per the provisions of the Karnataka General Clauses Act, 1985, it was contended in the petition.

The SIT on May 29 issued summons to the Union Minister asking him to produce documents with respect to the lands he owned in survey numbers 7 and 8 of Kethaganahalli to investigate the transfer of rights over these properties.

NIMHANS trains anganwadi workers under 'Suraksha Project'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Suraksha Project, a comprehensive suicide prevention initiative implemented by NIMHANS in collaboration with the State government and Himalaya Wellness Company, expanded its community training activities in Bengaluru South district.

It aims at building a robust community network of trained gatekeepers, including police personnel, teachers, anganwadi workers, and other frontline stakeholders. Through structured training, the project empowers them to recognise early warning signs, offer empathetic first-line support, and connect vulnerable individuals with appropriate mental health services.

As part of this ongoing programme, gatekeeper training for anganwadi teachers and workers began on Wednesday at the district headquarters in Bengaluru South.

This follows the successful training of over 700 police personnel in the district last month, equipping them with the skills to identify and support individuals at risk of self-harm, said Anish V. Cherian, additional professor, Department of Psychiatric Social Work at NIMHANS.

Underscoring the vital role of anganwadi workers in community wellbeing, Mr. Cherian said these workers are among the most trusted and well-connected members of the community.

"Their close relationship with families positions them to identify signs of distress and provide timely help," Mr. Cherian explained.

Shivakumar, assistant secretary, Ramanagara Zilla Panchayat emphasised the critical need for community-led suicide prevention efforts.

Yoga Day: Akshar Yoga Kendraa aim to set 12 Guinness records

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Akshar Yoga Kendraa will celebrate this year's International Yoga Day by attempting 12 Guinness World Records in yogasanas at the Palace Grounds, with 2,500 participants from over 30 countries. Recognised by India's AYUSH Ministry, the kendra has already achieved nine records. Participants include defence personnel, students, professionals, and specially-abled individuals.

Government of Jharkhand
Home, Prison and Disaster Management Department
(Disaster Management Division)
T.A. Division Building, Near Golchakar, Dhurwa, Ranchi, Jharkhand, Pin Code-834004.

Expression of Interest (Request for Proposal)

HIRING SERVICES OF CHARTERED ACCOUNTANT FIRM FOR STATUTORY AUDIT FOR THE FINANCIAL YEAR - 2010-11 TO FINANCIAL YEAR 2025-26
Due to unavoidable reasons the date of Pre bid meeting, Submission of Proposal and Opening of Technical bid of the advertisement published on 10.06.2025 PR No.-354502 is revised as follows :-

Important Dates
i. Date of pre bid meeting- **25.06.2025 - 2.00 P.M.**
ii. Last date of submission of proposal- **03.07.2025 - 05.00 P.M.**
iii. Date of opening of technical bid - **04.07.2025 - 03.00 P.M**

Under Secretary,
Home, Prison and Disaster Management Department
(Disaster Management Division)
Jharkhand, Ranchi
T.A. Division Building, Near Golchakkar, Dhurwa, Ranchi, Jharkhand, Pin Code-834004.

PR 355524 Disaster Management(25-26).D

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the general public that our client **Sri.Genaram Choudhary S/o Sri. Boloramji** is intending to purchase the schedule property mentioned hereunder from **Smt. Radhamma W/o Sri.Prakash** ; any person/s objecting for the proposed purchase or are having any right, title, interest or any type of claim over the scheduled property is hereby called upon to file their objections/claims what so ever along with documentary proof on or before **7 days** from the date of publication of this notice with the under mentioned advocate failing which; our clients shall proceed and complete the sale transaction with the above stated person.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the land bearing **Sy.no.2/5** measuring **1.1 Guntas or 1200 Square Feet,** situated at **Bandikodigehalli Village, Jala Hobli, Yelahanka Taluk, Bangalore,** and bounded on the: **East by : 10 feet Road, West by : Property of Nagaraja Sharma land and House, North by : Same Sy.no. R C Rangaswamy land, South by : Same Sy.No. Munishamappa land.**

C.K.V.K. LAW ASSOCIATES
Mr. VENKATESH CHANDRAN M.A., L.L.B.
Advocates & Legal Consultants Bangalore-43
M : 9845846428, 9108784843, 080-48658774
E- Mail: rvlaw.76@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public hereby notified that my client **Mr. Saravanan T son of Thangavelu K,** residing at No.L-118, 13th Cross, Lakshminarayana Pura, Bengaluru-560 021 is the absolute owner and is in peaceful possession and enjoyment of the Property mentioned below in the Schedule. he has lost/misplaced the Original Sale Deed dated 16-09-2000, duly registered as Document No.2182/2000-01, Book I, registered in the office of the Sub-registrar, Vijayanagar, Bangalore, pertaining to the Schedule Property. In this connection, an E-Complaint has also been lodged on 16-06-2025 vide Lost Report No. 1654449/2025. I hereby call upon the General public if anyone is in custody or possession of the same or otherwise found the above said document, kindly handover to undersigned immediately/within **15 days** and they may be suitably awarded and also I further bring into the notice of the general public that in case anyone dealing with the Schedule Property on the basis of the above said original document, it shall not be binding on my client and the same will be an offence and they are liable to punish under the Criminal and Civil Law.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Municipal No.15/1, (Previously Eastern Portion of property bearing Municipal No.15) BBMP PID No.24-53-15/1, New **E PID No.3234723166,** situated at **15th Cross, Lakshmi Narayanapura, Bangalore,** presently within the limits of BBMP Bengaluru Ward No.97-Dayanandanagar, site measuring **East to West: 15 feet or 4.57 meters and North to South: 56 feet or 17.07 Meters, totally measuring 840 square feet or 78.04 Square Meters** together with RCC Roofed residential house constructed thereon with all civic amenities building thereon, and bounded on: **East by : M. Munidoddai's Land; West by : Remaining Portion of Same Property No.15; North by : Conservancy; South by : 15th Cross Road;**

KRISHNAMURTHY. P, Advocate
No.11, 1st Floor, "MEERA NIVAS"
Opp: Sai Baba Temple, North Park Road,
Seshadripuram, Bangalore-560 020.
Mob: 9740718436
email : tilak.raghavendra@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

This notice is issued on behalf of My client **Sri.Pandurangan.R S/o. Sri.Rangothama Rao** to bring the notice of the general public that the following sale deed as **1.** Original registered absolute sale deed bearing doc.No.215/1973-74 of Book-I, date.18.04.1973, executed by **Sri.Syed Gouse and Others** in favour of **Sri.Venkatesh Reddy. 2.** Original registered absolute sale deed bearing doc.No.4858/1974-75 of Book-I, page 131-132, date.18.11.1974, executed by **Sri.Venkatesh Reddy** in favour of **Sri.Muniyappa S/o Gangadharaiah** are missing / lost / misplaced in respect of schedule property.

If any person/s, firm, company, institution or organization has any claim are holding the afore mentioned document or schedule property, they may contact the undersigned in writing within **7 days** from the date of this notice failing which it will be presumed that there are no claims.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All the piece and parcel of the immovable residential property bearing Western Portion of the property bearing **Site No.1,** House List Katha No.1220/A, 574/A, Situated at **Lingarajapura Village, Kasaba Hobli, Bangalore North Taluk, Bangalore,** now assigned as BBMP Municipal No.121/1, Church Street, L.R.Puram, PID No.87-54-121/1, now comes under Limits of BBMP, ward No.49, Bangalore measuring East to West **20 feet** and North to South **30 feet,** totally measuring **600 Sq.feet** along with building thereon and bonded on : **East by : Eastern Portion of Site No.1, West by : Private Property, North by : Road, South by : Private Property.**

H. Prahlada, Advocate & Solicitor,
For H.P.Law, #2, 3rd Floor, Venkateshwara Complex, Yeshwanthpur, Bangalore-560022
M : 7760061073

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public hereby notified that my client **Mr. Manivannan T son of Thangavelu K,** residing at No.L-118, 13th Cross, Lakshminarayana Pura, Bengaluru-560 021is the absolute owner and is in peaceful possession and enjoyment of the Property mentioned below in the Schedule. he has lost/misplaced the Original Sale Deed dated 16-09-2000, duly registered as Document No.2183/2000-01, Book I, registered in the office of the Sub-registrar, Vijayanagar, Bangalore, pertaining to the Schedule Property. In this connection, an E-Complaint has also been lodged on 16-06-2025 vide Lost Report No. 1654455/2025. I hereby call upon the General public if anyone is in custody or possession of the same or otherwise found the above said document, kindly handover to undersigned immediately/within **15 days** and they may be suitably awarded and also I further bring into the notice of the general public that in case anyone dealing with the Schedule Property on the basis of the above said original document, it shall not be binding on my client and the same will be an offence and they are liable to punish under the Criminal and Civil Law.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of property bearing Municipal No.15, (Previously Western Portion of property bearing Municipal No.15) BBMP PID No.24-53-15, New **E PID No. 8468006636,** situated at **15th Cross, Lakshmi Narayanapura, Bangalore,** presently within the limits of BBMP Bengaluru Ward No.97-Dayanandanagar, site measuring **East to West: 15 feet or 4.57 meters and North to South: 56 feet or 17.07 Meters, totally measuring 840 square feet or 78.04 Square Meters** together RCC Roofed residential biding constructed thereon, with all civic amenities building thereon, and bounded on: **East by : Remaining Portion of Municipal No.15; West by : Kannappa's Property; North by : Conservancy; South by : 15th Cross Road;**

KRISHNAMURTHY. P, Advocate
No.11, 1st Floor, "MEERA NIVAS"
Opp: Sai Baba Temple, North Park Road,
Seshadripuram, Bangalore-560 020.
Mob: 9740718436
email : tilak.raghavendra@gmail.com

PUBLIC NOTICE

The General Public hereby notified that my client **Mr. Saravanan T son of Thangavelu K,** residing at No.L-118, 13th Cross, Lakshminarayana Pura, Bengaluru-560 021 is the absolute owner and is in peaceful possession and enjoyment of the Property mentioned below in the Schedule. he has lost/misplaced the Original Sale Deed dated 16-09-2000, duly registered as Document No.2182/2000-01, Book I, registered in the office of the Sub-registrar, Vijayanagar, Bangalore, pertaining to the Schedule Property. In this connection, an E-Complaint has also been lodged on 16-06-2025 vide Lost Report No. 1654449/2025. I hereby call upon the General public if anyone is in custody or possession of the same or otherwise found the above said document, kindly handover to undersigned immediately/within **15 days** and they may be suitably awarded and also I further bring into the notice of the general public that in case anyone dealing with the Schedule Property on the basis of the above said original document, it shall not be binding on my client and the same will be an offence and they are liable to punish under the Criminal and Civil Law.

SCHEDULE PROPERTY

All that piece and parcel of the property bearing Municipal No.15/1, (Previously Eastern Portion of property bearing Municipal No.15) BBMP PID No.24-53-15/1, New **E PID No.3234723166,** situated at **15th Cross, Lakshmi Narayanapura, Bangalore,** presently within the limits of BBMP Bengaluru Ward No.97-Dayanandanagar, site measuring **East to West: 15 feet or 4.57 meters and North to South: 56 feet or 17.07 Meters, totally measuring 840 square feet or 78.04 Square Meters** together with RCC Roofed residential house constructed thereon with all civic amenities building thereon, and bounded on: **East by : M. Munidoddai's Land; West by : Remaining Portion of Same Property No.15; North by : Conservancy; South by : 15th Cross Road;**

KRISHNAMURTHY. P, Advocate
No.11, 1st Floor, "MEERA NIVAS"
Opp: Sai Baba Temple, North Park Road,
Seshadripuram, Bangalore-560 020.
Mob: 9740718436
email : tilak.raghavendra@gmail.com

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-(IREPS) Tender Notice No: 13 UBL 2025-26
Dated: 12.06.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders (IREPS) for the following works:

Sl.No.	Name of work	Approx. Value
1	**Hubballi Division:** **Asst. Divisional Engineer/HQ/Hubballi Jurisdiction:** EMD Shed (Zone-7).	Rs. 17,38,000.00
2	**Hubballi Division:** **Asst. Divisional Engineer/HQ/Hubballi Section:** Area covering all staff quarters under Jurisdiction of SSE/W/SW/ Hubballi. (Except Officers Colony) (Zone-8).	Rs. 41,87,000.00
3	**Hubballi Division:** Golf link colony, Brook Road officer colony, Behind Hospital Colony, Railway Officers Club and surrounding colony, Officer Rest House, all other service building under SSE/Works/SW/Hubballi Jurisdiction (Zone-8/A).	Rs. 63,99,000.00
4	**Hubballi Division:** **Asst. Divisional Engineer/HQ/Hubballi Section:** All colonies to South of Gadag Road, Central Hospital, Down Chawl, Cement Chawl, Vidyaranya Nagar, Sleeper Depot and other buildings of SSE/Work/Qts/Hubballi and GM's Office (Rail Soudha), General Stores Depot (Zone-9).	Rs. 55,30,000.00
5	**Hubballi Division:** **Asst. Divisional Engineer/HQ/Hubballi Section:** MTS Colony, Devargudhihal, Obalapur, Deshpande Nagar, Rail Nagar Colony, New Vidyaranya Colony, all colonies pipeline works including Hubballi Railway Station (Zone-10/A).	Rs. 66,36,000.00
6	**Hubballi Division:** **Asst. Divisional Engineer/HQ/Hubballi Section:** Hubballi station building and its circulating area including all service building, Supervisor Rest House, South Side Colony, Sheds, Running Room, Mechanical Laundry, all sheds, in yard, Pit Line and other areas which are earlier under the control of incharge SSE/Work at Hubballi (Zone-11).	Rs. 42,66,000.00
7	**Hubballi Division:** **Asst. Divisional Engineer/West/ Hubballi Section:** Hubballi (Excl.), Alnavar to Ambewadi (Incl) (Zone-12).	Rs. 15,80,000.00
8	**Hubballi Division:** Horticulture works at Hubballi area under Asst. Divisional Engineer/HQ/Hubballi Jurisdiction (Zone-13).	Rs. 15,80,000.00

Last date for submission of bids:
Upto 11:00 Hrs. on 11.07.2025

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Sr. Divisional Engineer/Co-Ordination Hubballi
PUB/202/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike
Office of the Executive Engineer,
Shivaji Nagar Division, Thimmaiah Road, Bangalore

No: EE/SJN/TEND /05/2025-26, Dated: 19/06/2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

(Short Term Tender Notification)
(Through GoK KPP Portal https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in only)

The Executive Engineer (Shivaji Nagar) Division invites Item Rate tenders on behalf of the Commissioner, BBMP, Bangalore from eligible tenderers for the works details in the table given below. The tenderers may submit tenders for the works given in the table through e-registered in Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike/BWSSB/KUSWS&B/PRED/PWD/Railways/MES/any State or Central Govt., Organization.

S.N.	Name of the work
1	Improvements of Roads and Drains at Gurumurthy Street and Surrounding Cross Roads in Ward No:121 Halasuru BBMP/24-25/OW/WORK_NDENT 6412/CALL-02. **Approx. value of work :** Rs. 30.00 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs.7500.00.
2	Improvement to drains of Cross Roads in Guptha Layout in Ward No: 121 Halasuru. BBMP/24-25/OW/ WORK_NDENT6397/CALL-02. **Approx. value of work :** Rs. 15.00 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs.37500.00.
3	Improvements works to Bharath Scouts and Guides district office in Vasanth Nagara in Ward No: 117. BBMP/24-25/OW/WORK_NDENT7328/CALL-02 **Approx. value of work :** Rs. 22.00 Lakhs. **EMD :** Rs.55000.00.

Calendar of events: 1) Tender Documents may be downloaded from the e-procurement portal of GOK from 20.06.2025. 2) Last Date for uploading the Filled Tender Document is 30.06.2025 up to 4.00 p.m. 3) Date of Opening of Tenders is on 01.07.2025 by 4.30 p.m. if possible or next working day.

Sd/- Executive Engineer, Shivaji Nagar Division

SOUTHERN RAILWAY

PALAKKAD DIVISION

Sr. Divisional Engineer / Co-ordination Southern Railway / Palakkad invites E-TENDERS for the following works
E-TENDER NOTICE No. PGT/OT/13/2025 dated : 18/06/2025

Sl. No	Name of work	Approximate Cash value in (₹) lakhs	Bid Security Amount ₹
(1)	(2)	(3)	(4)
1	Senior Section Engineer / Permanent Way / Kannur section: Supply of experienced, conversant and medically fit men for outsourcing Monsoon patrolling duty and watchman at vulnerable locations (During the monsoon for the year 2025-26).	17.22	34,400/-
2	Zonal Contract for Track works for execution and supply of materials in Palakkad division for a period of One year from 01/07/2025 to 30/06/2026- Zone "A-V"-Senior Section Engineer / Permanent way / West / Podanur.	62.48	1,25,000/-
3	Zonal Contract for Track works for execution and supply of materials in Palakkad division for a period of One year from 01/07/2025 to 30/06/2026- Zone "A-VI"-Senior Section Engineer / Permanent way / East/Palakkad.	94.82	1,89,700/-
4	Zonal Contract for Track works for execution and supply of materials in Palakkad division for a period of One year from 01 / 07 / 2025 to 30 / 06 / 2026- Zone "A-VII"- Senior Section Engineer / Permanent way / West / Palakkad.	63.13	1,26,300/-
5	Zonal Contract for Track works for execution and supply of materials in Palakkad division for a period of One year from 01/07/2025 to 30/06/2026- Zone "B-II"-Senior Section Engineer / Permanent way / Kollengode.	63.30	1,26,600/-
6	Zonal Contract for Track works for execution and supply of materials in Palakkad division for a period of One year from 01/07/2025 to 30/06/2026- Zone "C-III"-Senior Section Engineer / Permanent way / Shoranur.	94.56	1,89,100/-
7	Zonal Contract for Track works for execution and supply of materials in Palakkad division for a period of One year from 01/07/2025 to 30/06/2026- Zone "C-IV"-Senior Section Engineer / Permanent way / Tirur.	62.69	1,25,400/-
8	Zonal Contract for Track works for execution and supply of materials in Palakkad division for a period of One year from 01/07/2025 to 30/06/2026- Zone "C-V"-Senior Section Engineer / Permanent way / Angadipuram.	63.17	1,26,300/-
9	Zonal Contract for Track works for execution and supply of materials in Palakkad division for a period of One year from 01/07/2025 to 30/06/2026- Zone "D-II"-Senior Section Engineer / Permanent way / Calicut.	94.88	1,89,800/-
10	Zonal Contract for Track works for execution and supply of materials in Palakkad division for a period of One year from 01/07/2025 to 30/06/2026-Zone "D-III"-Senior Section Engineer / Permanent way / Quilandy.	63.33	1,26,700/-
11	Zonal Contract for Track works for execution and supply of materials in Palakkad division for a period of One year from 01/07/2025 to 30/06/2026- Zone "E-II"-Senior Section Engineer / Permanent way / Kannur.	63.22	1,26,500/-
12	Zonal Contract for Track works for execution and supply of materials in Palakkad division for a period of One year from 01/07/2025 to 30/06/2026-Zone "F-I"- Senior Section Engineer / Permanent way / Kasaragod.	63.22	1,26,500/-
13	Zonal Contract for Track works for execution and supply of materials in Palakkad division for a period of One year from 01/07/2025 to 30/06/2026-Zone "H-I"- Senior Section Engineer / Permanent way / Payyanur.	63.20	1,26,400/-
14	Zonal Contract for Track works for execution and supply of materials in Palakkad division for a period of One year from 01/07/2025 to 30/06/2026- Zone "G-I"-Senior Section Engineer / Permanent way / Mangalore.	94.94	1,89,900/-
15	Senior Section Engineer / Permanent Way / West / Palakkad section: Supply of experienced, conversant and medically fit men for outsourcing Monsoon patrolling duty and watchman at vulnerable locations. (During the monsoon for the year 2025-26)	43.70	87,400/-
16	"Senior Section Engineer / Permanent Way / Calicut section: Supply of experienced, conversant and medically fit men for outsourcing Monsoon patrolling duty and Watchman at vulnerable locations. (During the monsoon for the year 2025-26)	9.33	18,700/-

Sl. No. 1 to 16: Tender closing Date & Time: 10/07//2025 @ 15.00 hrs

Completion Period In Months: 1. **Six**, 2. **Twelve**, 3. **Twelve**, 4. **Twelve**, 5. **Twelve**, 6. **Twelve**, 7. **Twelve**, 8. **Twelve**, 9. **Twelve**, 10. **Twelve**, 11. **Twelve**, 12. **Twelve**, 13. **Twelve**, 14. **Twelve**, 15. **Six**,16. **Six**

1. **All the contracts on Works/goods/services will be subject to the new GST Act as applicable from time to time.**
2. **Contractors/Suppliers have to register themselves with GST authorities and to furnish the GST registration number in order to process the bills from 01.7.2017 onwards.**
3. **For complete details of the above tenders please visit Web site "http://www.ireps.gov.in."**

Note: It is the responsibility of the Tenderer to check any corrigendum issued for any correction or modifications uploaded subsequently in website; the same shall be taken in to account while submitting Tender.

Sr. Divisional Engineer / Co-ordination / Southern Railway / Palakkad
(For and on behalf of the President of India

Karnataka Public Works Department
Office of the Engineer-in-Chief, PRAMC, PWD, Bengaluru-560001

No.: EIC/PWD/05/PRAMC/2025-26/524 Date: 19.06.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER

The Executive Engineer, PRAMC, KPWD invites Short Term Tender for one Road Safety work in Mysore Districts and one Package work for Development of Park, Footpath and other connecting roads in Bengaluru District Further details can be obtained from KPP Portal (https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in) from **20.06.2025, 5:30 PM** onwards.

Sd/- Executive Engineer,
PRAMC, KPWD, Bengaluru

DIPR/CP/LC/1351/2025-26

PUBLIC NOTICE

St. Philomena's Hospital

Please be informed that inpatient records (IP Charts) for the year 2017, of St.Philomena's Hospital, # 4, Campbell Road, Viveknagar P.O, Bangalore – 560 047, will be discarded after one month from this announcement date of 20th June 2025.

Dr.Shankar Prasad
Medical Director
St.Philomena's Hospital

Government of Karnataka - Karnataka Forest Department
Office of the Assistant Conservator of Forests, Hosanagara Sub Division, Hosanagara.
District: Shivamogga. e-Mail ID: acfhnr@gmail.com
No:ACF/HNR/NBM-MONSOON/CR-1/2025-26
Date: 17.06.2025

e-Tender Notice (Short-Term e-Tender Notice Through e-Procurement Portal)

Unitwar Tender is invited in two cover system through e-procurement portal from interested Forest Contractors having 05 (five) years of experience for works of forming 10 Monsoon Plantations of approx. amount Rs. 144.00 lakhs under NBM (Minor work and SCP/TSP) Scheme in the limits of various forest zones of Sagar Division for the year 2025-26. Last date for submission of Tender is fixed as: 25.06.2025 up to 4.50 PM. Complete details of works and places are explained in the e-Procurement Portal. For further information this office can be contacted and details regarding the Tender can be obtained from the official website http://kppp.karnataka.gov.in

Sd/- Assistant Conservator of Forests, Hosanagara Sub Division, Hosanagara.

DIPR/smg/ksmca/25-26/83/06/438

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE IS HERERBY GIVEN THAT the landowners as mentioned under with have represented that they are the owners of the properties to the extent as mentioned it is brought to the Notice of the General Public that my client has negotiated and agreed to purchase the schedule properties from the said landowners. All person/ persons claiming or having any claim against or to the schedule properties or any part thereof by way of inheritance, Mortgage, Sale, Conveyance, MOU, agreement to Sell, transfer, lease deed, tenancy, license, lean, charge, trust, maintenance, easement, gift, exchange, possession, adverse possession or otherwise howsoever are hereby required to submit the same in writing along with documentary proof to the under signed within 7 days from the date of publication hereof failing which my client shall proceed to register the sale deeds without any reference to such claim and the same, if any will be considered as waived.

Sl No.	Village	Name of Land Owner	Sy No.	Extent
1	Nosagere Village, Kasaba Hobli, Malur Taluk, Kolar District	1. MANJULA @ MANJAMMA, W/o Late Krishnappa, 2. SUNIL KUMAR K, S/o Late Krishnappa 3. BHAGYA R, W/o Sunil Kumar K, D/o Ramappa 4. BABY N.S LOCHAN GOWDA, D/o Sunil Kumar K 5. MASTER SHREYAS GOWDA N S, S/o Sunil Kumar K	19/7 (Old No.19/3)	01 Acre

Bangalore
Date: 20/06/2025

Ramrao Kulkarni
Advocate,
No. 110/2, 1st Floor, Krishnappa Layout,
Lalbagh Road, Bangalore-560027.
Mobile: 9986354084/9422458954

KARNATAKA POWER TRANSMISSION CORPORATION LIMITED
(CIN: U40109KA1999SGC025521)

TENDER NOTIFICATION
(THROUGH KARNATAKA PUBLIC PROCUREMENT PORTAL ONLY)

KPTCL invites bids for the following works :

No. SEE/Tr(Op)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/F-180(12)/25-26/993-94 Date : 18.06.2025

1) Bid enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/24-25/EPR-15, Call-9, Dated 01.10.2024 for the work of increasing the Vertical Clearance of existing 66kV ITI-Hebbala-1 &2 (Hebbala-L.R. Bande & Hebbala-Banaswadi tapped to pottery road) double circuit line between tower No.06 & 07 in HMT Layout, R.T Nagar by providing 02 Nos of 66kV DC plus 6 NBT KPTCL design towers in TLM Sub-Division Hoody, Bengaluru, in the Tr(Op), South Circle, Bengaluru.

No. SEE/Tr(Op)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/F-180(07)/25-26/995-96 Date : 18.06.2025

2) Bid enquiry No: KPTCL/SEE/TR(M)/BMAZ(S)/EE(O)/AEE-1/24-25/EPR-15, Call-3, Dated 01.10.2024 for the work of increasing the Vertical Clearance of existing 66kV HAL – BWTC-1&2 (HAL –K.B.Halli & HAL-Bagmane – GTRE) D/C Line between Tower number 5 & 6 in Jagadeeshnagar by providing an intermediate tower (66kV DD plus 0, NBT, KPTCL Design) in TLM Sub-Division Hoody, Bengaluru, in the Tr(Op), South Circle, Bengaluru.

The Bids will be received through E-Procurement mode only. The detailed notification regarding the subject tenders can be got by logging on to **https://kptcl.karnataka.gov.in** with hyperlink 'E Procurement KPTCL' or to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in** on or after **20.06.2025.** Other details can be obtained from Office of the undersigned.

Sd/- Superintending Engineer (Ele.),
Transmission (Operation) Circle-South, KPTCL,
Office Complex, Ground Floor, A.R. Circle, Bengaluru–09.

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
INDIAN SPACE RESEARCH ORGANISATION (ISRO)
ISRO-TELEMETRY TRACKING & COMMAND NETWORK (ISTRAC)
(CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTENANCE GROUP)
Plot No.12&13, 3rd Main, 2nd Phase, Peenya Industrial Estate, Bengaluru-58. Ph: 080-28094541/ 4178, Fax: 080-28094180

BRIEF E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of President of India, **Sealed Item rate E-Tender** is invited online from Contractors of appropriate class for the following work in NIT by **Group Head,** ISTRAC, ISRO, Peenya, Bengaluru-58 (Ph:080-2809 4541).

Name of work	**Supply, Installation, Testing & Commissioning of HT Panel and Load Break Switch at ISTRAC, Sri Vijaya Puram (Port Blair).**
E-Tender Notice	**ISTRAC/CMG/E/MAINT/E-TN-34/ 2025-2026, Dated: 19.06.2025**
Estimated Cost put to tender	**Rs. 24.11 Lakhs**
Tender Document Details	**E-Tenders**
Period of Completion in months reckoned from the 15th day of date of issue of work order	**03 months**
Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	**From 20.06.2025 to 05.07.2025 till 16.00 hrs.**
Bid Clarification	**From 21.06.2025 to 06.07.2025 till 16.00 hrs.**
Last date & time for reply to Bid Clarifications	**07.07.2025 up to 16.00 Hrs.**
Last date and time for receipt of tenders	**08.07.2025 up to 16.00 Hrs.**
Due date and time of opening of tenders.	**10.07.2025 after 11.00 Hrs.**
Earnest Money Deposit (EMD)	**Rs. 48,220/-**

Interested tenderers may please refer **Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT)** for eligibility criteria and other details from website **www.isro.gov.in** and download the tender documents from **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/- Group Head, CMG

GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, DEPARTMENT OF SPACE
HUMAN SPACE FLIGHT CENTRE (HSFC),
Construction & Maintenance Group (CMG), Antariksh Bhavan,
Bengaluru - 560 094, Ph:080-22172614/2613

E-TENDER NOTICE

On behalf of the President of India, Online Item rate tenders are invited through e-tendering for the following works.

Sl. No.	Title of work and NIT no.	Estimated Cost put to tender	Period of Completion	Period during which the tender document can be downloaded	Due date & time of submission	Date of tender opening	Earnest Money Deposit (EMD) Rs.
01	Providing temporary barricading for isolation of existing facility at HSFC Campus, Devanahalli, Bengaluru(Civil work). **HSFC/CMG/MM/C/149/ 2025-26, Dt: 19.06.2025**	Rs.17.69 Lakhs	02 Months	From 20.06.2025 (11.00 hrs) to 30.06.2025 (23.30 hrs)	02.07.2025 up to 11.00 hrs	02.07.2025 at 11.30 hrs	35,380/-

Tender documents can be downloaded from website **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO** by registering with tender wizard and paying tender processing fee. The procedure for vender registration is displayed in the above website.

Interested tenderers may please refer Detailed Notice Inviting Tender (NIT) from website **www.isro.gov.in** for further details and Purchase of tender documents visit **www.tenderwizard.com/ISRO**

Sd/-Head CMD, CMG, HSFC

M BG-BGE

Priyank Kharge to seek valid explanation on Centre denying him permission for official U.S. trip

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Karnataka's Information Technology/ Biotechnology and Rural Development and Panchayat Raj (RDPR) Minister Priyank Kharge said that he will write to the Ministry of External Affairs seeking a valid explanation on the Centre denying him permission to travel to the U.S. on a scheduled official trip.

Addressing pressperson here after returning from Paris on Wednesday night, Mr. Kharge said he will also request Chief Minister Siddaramaiah to write to the Prime Minister in this regard.

Mr. Kharge was scheduled to attend multiple events in the U.S., including the BIO International Convention in Boston and the Design Automation Conference (DAC) in San Francisco.

However, due to denial of permission, he was forced to cut short his ongoing trip and returned from Paris to Bengaluru on Wednesday night. Acknowledging the Centre's authority to decline permission, he asserted that there should be a justification for this decision.

Priyank Kharge

"We are okay with the denial but give us reasons. Rejecting my official tour without a valid reason is unjustifiable. My visit to the US was not to discuss politics but to attract investments. People in the US have no time to listen to our politics. We were going there to invite them to invest in Karnataka. The investment that comes to Karnataka will not only benefit the State but also the Centre," he said.

"During my visit I was scheduled to interact with multinational companies to attract investments to Karnataka. We are competing not just with other neighbouring States such as Telangana and Tamil Nadu. We are ahead of the curve and we are competing with other countries such as China, Vietnam and the Philippines. How will they know our policy? We have to go there, make a presentation and pitch our proposals," he said.

"It appears that the Centre is trying to curtail Karnataka's economic growth," the Minister added.

Alleging that the Prime Minister had "outsourced" its foreign policy, Mr Kharge said he had now also outsourced the country's investment policy.

Stating that he would take it up with the Centre, Mr Kharge said, "I am going to write to the MEA seeking a valid explanation on why permission and support from the Centre was denied to our delegation."

Sapthak Bangalore to organise music concert at Malleswaram tomorrow

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Sapthak Bangalore will host a classical music concert on Saturday, at Seva Sadana in Malleswaram on Saturday. The event will feature vocal performance by Archana Shenoy, accompanied by Yogeesh Bhat on tabla, Vighnesh Bhagwat on harmonium, at 5 p.m. There will be a flute recital by Gajanan Sabhahit, accompanied by Suma Hegde on santoor, Gurumurthy Vaidya on tabla. Sapthak is an organisation dedicated to promoting Indian classical music, and its events are known for showcasing established and emerging artists.

Yuva Sangeethotsava kicks off

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The much-anticipated five-day celebration showcasing performances of young Carnatic musicians, Yuva Sangeethotsava 2025, was inaugurated at the Bangalore Gayana Samaja on Wednesday. The festival will conclude on Sunday. The schedule of the event is as follows: On June 20, flute concert by Achuth M. Athreya, 5.30 p.m.; vocal concert by Prajna Adiga, 7 p.m. On June 21, veena concert by Manoj K. Jagannath 5.30 p.m.; vocal concert by Saarang Bhagavath, 7 p.m. On June 22, flute concert by K.R. Pranav and team at 5 p.m.; vocal concert by Vedanth Padmaraman 7 p.m.

Each evening features two back-to-back concerts, offering audiences a vibrant experience into the world of Carnatic music through the lens of youthful artistry. Entries free.

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक
पर्यवेक्षण विभाग, क्षेत्रीय कार्यालय, बेंगलूरू
www.rbi.org.in

सूचना

मैसर्स कल्लरक्कल फिनकॉर्प प्राइवेट लिमिटेड
(जिसे पूर्व में एचएमएफ फाइनेंसियल सर्विसेज प्राइवेट लिमिटेड के रूप में जाना जाता था)
#1101, कैबिन नं 311/बी, 3री मंजिल, 24वां मुख्य, जे पी नगर, 1ला फेज, बेंगलोर-560 078

भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक ने दिनांक 07 मई 2025 को कारण बताओ नोटिस जारी किया है, जिसमें मैसर्स कल्लरक्कल फिनकॉर्प प्राइवेट लिमिटेड से 28 मई 2025 तक लिखित रूप में इस बात का कारण बताए जाने की अपेक्षा की गई थी कि भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक अधिनियम, 1934 की धारा 45-Iअ के तहत उन्हें जारी किया गया पंजीकरण प्रमाण-पत्र क्यों न रद्द कर दिया जाए। कंपनी को जारी की गई कारण बताओ नोटिस बिना सुपुर्द के हमें वापस लौटा दी गई है और कंपनी ने आज तक कारण बताओ नोटिस का कोई उत्तर प्रस्तुत नहीं किया है।

इस बात पर ध्यान दिया जाए कि इस सूचना के प्रकाशन की तिथि से 15 दिनों के अंदर यदि मैसर्स कल्लरक्कल फिनकॉर्प प्राइवेट लिमिटेड कारण बताओ नोटिस का कोई उत्तर प्रस्तुत नहीं कर पाता है तो भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक द्वारा उनको भारतीय रिज़र्व बैंक अधिनियम, 1934 की धारा 45-I अ (6) के तहत उन्हें जारी किया गया पंजीकरण प्रमाण-पत्र रद्द कर दिया जाएगा।

तिथि: जून 20, 2025
स्थान: बेंगलूरू
हस्ता/-
महाप्रबंधक

RESERVE BANK OF INDIA
Department of Supervision, Regional Office, Bengaluru
www.rbi.org.in

NOTICE

M/s Kallarakkal Fincorp Private Limited
(Formerly known as HMF Financial Services Private Limited)
#1101, Cabin No 311/B, 3rd Floor, 24th Main, J P Nagar, 1st Phase, Bangalore-560 078

The Reserve Bank of India has issued Show Cause Notice dated May 07, 2025, requiring M/s Kallarakkal Fincorp Private Limited to show cause in writing on or before May 28, 2025, as to why the Certificate of Registration issued to it under Section 45-IA of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934, should not be cancelled. The Show Cause Notice issued to the Company has been returned undelivered and the Company has not submitted any reply to the show cause notice till date.

Take notice that, in case M/s Kallarakkal Fincorp Private Limited fails to submit any reply to the Show Cause Notice within 15 days from the date of publication of this notice, the Reserve Bank of India shall be constrained to cancel the Certificate of Registration issued to it under section 45-IA (6) of the Reserve Bank of India Act, 1934 without any further notice in that regard.

Date: June 20, 2025
Place: Bengaluru
Sd/-
General Manager

IGE
5TH EDITION
INDIA GREEN ENERGY EXPO
19 20 21 JUNE 2025
BIEC, Bangalore International Exhibition Center, INDIA
EXHIBITION TIME: 10 AM - 6 PM
An International Expo bringing together Renewable Energy Producers, Equipment Manufacturers, Technology Providers, Consultants and Allied Industry
Scan & Register Now
ENTRY FREE
JOINTLY ORGANIZED BY
SUPPORTED BY
KNOWLEDGE PARTNER
GOLD SPONSOR
PLATINUM SPONSOR
MEDIA PARTNERS
For more details contact: 70755 66244 / 89196 00459 / 83091 88083
www.indiagreenenergyexpo.com

THE HINDU GROUP
HEALTHIER CHOICES, HAPPIER LIVES.
The Hindu, in collaboration with Naruvi Hospitals, Vellore, presents Healthy India, Happy India - a comprehensive 15-part webinar series to inspire and promote well-being.
JOIN US FOR A WEBINAR ON
GADGETS IN ENT
naruvi HOSPITALS
Vellore
Presents
HEALTHY INDIA HAPPY INDIA
Prevent Illness, Promote Wellness
Powered by
THE HINDU
Dr Mary Kurien
Professor & Head, Department of ENT, Naruvi Hospitals, Vellore
Dr Vikram M
Consultant, Department of ENT, Naruvi Hospitals, Vellore
Sadhana Chandrababu
Advanced Audiology Practitioner, Powys Teaching Health Board, NHS, United Kingdom
Soma Basu
Senior Deputy Editor (Moderator)
Sunday, June 22, 2025 | 11:30 AM
E-certificate of participation will be issued to all registrants.
Register at, newsth.live/HIHUIPA or scan the QR code

THE HINDU GROUP
thehindubusinessline.
MSME GROWTH CONCLAVE
BENGALURU - 2025
In association with
NITTE
(Deemed to be University)
Where there is space for every dream
Fueling India's Next Big Leap.
The businessline MSME Conclave celebrates the builders of India- the MSMEs driving the Make in India vision. Our event brings together visionaries, policymakers and business leaders to spotlight the innovation and resilience powering India's growth.
THEMES OF DISCUSSION
Session 1: MSMEs : Call to Arms (Supplying to Defence)
Session 2: MSMEs : Powering Make in India
Bengaluru
June 25, 2025 | 5:00 PM onwards
Scan the QR code to register or visit
newsth.live/THMSME25
For queries, contact: 98216 73157 | 72990 30519 | 96110 29762
Associate Partners
Canara Bank
SSVM INSTITUTIONS COIMBATORE
Tally POWER OF SIMPLICITY
Nandini
MSIL
Office Space Partner
PURAVANKARA
Insight Partner
TransUnion CIBIL
Industry Partner
FICCI

Capital charter

Delhi needs to solve the infrastructure deficit and the housing crisis

Nearly four months into her tenure as Chief Minister of the National Capital Territory (NCT), Rekha Gupta seems to have more agency and resources to address Delhi's infrastructure issues and economic woes. The governance deficit seen during the previous government led by the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) due to political differences with the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government at the Centre is noticeably absent now. Interacting with a cross-section of society at *The Hindu* Mind, a platform for leaders from all fields to converse with curious minds, Ms. Gupta said that she wanted to be known as someone who is dedicated to resolving the daily problems of the people of Delhi. Problems abound. From electricity to education, transportation to public infrastructure, and sewage treatment to water availability, there is a litany of issues that plague the national capital. Ms. Gupta blamed the previous AAP and Congress governments for the situation. It is true that the AAP's style of governance provided succour to the poorest segments, but shallowed out the promise of Delhi as an investment destination and an enabler of the middle-class dream for housing facilities and jobs. AAP used Delhi as a staging post of its chief Arvind Kejriwal's electoral ambitions.

That said, no incumbent can succeed by blaming predecessors. The one in charge currently is the one answerable. Ms. Gupta said the Minto Bridge underpass in Connaught Place in central Delhi would no longer flood in the rains, and she was proved right this week when the city received a heavy downpour. But numerous other places in the city were waterlogged, and this is just a small part of the challenges. Ms. Gupta said all the water logging points in Delhi have been identified, and a nodal officer has been put in charge for each of them, who will be accountable. This must be enforced strictly. Haphazard and unpredictable land use regulations over the decades are one of the main reasons for Delhi losing out to surrounding places as a destination for housing and office space. The land pooling policy in the capital which has been meandering, now needs to be urgently streamlined and implemented. Thousands of people who have invested their hard-earned money with the dream of a house in Delhi cannot be punished for policy confusion that is not their fault. Schooling in Delhi needs to have predictable regulation, and both private and public schools must follow standards. Huge disparities in school educations can have cascading ill effects for the society. Freeing up Delhi's so-called agricultural land for planned development must be a priority, and the Chief Minister seems to be cognisant of this. Ms. Gupta said a new Master Plan for the city will account for all these, and the fact that the BJP is in power at the Centre, NCT and in all Municipal Councils of Delhi will make things easy. It is a great chance for Ms. Gupta to lead a definitive transformation of the national capital.

A new cycle

India begins its quest for the Test Championship with young players

Less than a week after South Africa emerged triumphant in the ICC World Test Championship (WTC), a new cycle has begun. Bangladesh is already in Sri Lanka, busy playing a Test, while a more high-profile series will commence once India takes on England at Headingley in Leeds from Friday. A new-look Indian squad under the stewardship of Shubman Gill will step out for duty while a clean break from the past has been implemented due to the retirements of Virat Kohli, Rohit Sharma and R. Ashwin, and the omission of Ajinkya Rahane and Cheteshwar Pujara. A tour of the Old Blighty is never easy and that has been the case since 1932 when India made its Test debut at Lord's. Series triumphs were etched in 1971, 1986 and 2007, but otherwise it has been a tale of Indian batters floundering against swing under whimsical English skies. Even as India beat Australia in its backyard over the last decade despite the loss in the last encounter, England has remained a tough place to tour. However, cricket's spiritual home has also gifted some special Indian memories like B.S. Chandrasekhar's spells, the 1983 World Cup victory, Dilip Vengsarkar's three consecutive hundreds at Lord's, and the Test debuts of Sourav Ganguly and Rahul Dravid, to name a few.

A sense of a beginning is evident in cricket's birthplace and seen in that light, Gill and his men are in the right place. Ravindra Jadeja, K.L. Rahul, Jasprit Bumrah and Karun Nair, busy charting a comeback, constitute the seniors in a unit high on youth with even Gill being just 25. The Punjab star has to deliver on two counts, both as batter and skipper. A 35.05 average after 32 Tests does not reflect the quality innate in him. It is not just that the batting core has changed as even the slip-cordon will have new personnel, and the way Gill guides his outfit through this transition will determine how India will fare in the latest WTC cycle. Bumrah will remain the spearhead but with workload management being the key, he will not play all the five Tests at stake. His old ally Mohammed Shami will be missed but in Mohammed Siraj and others, Bumrah has a set of talented fellow pace bowlers. Squaring against them would be Ben Stokes and his men busy relishing home advantage with Joe Root being the anchor among their batters. In a challenging tour stretching all the way to August 4, Gill, in tandem with vice-captain Rishabh Pant, gets an opportunity to forge a fresh and strong Indian unit.

Blame not the messenger in India's diplomacy

Suhasini Haidar

History and literature are replete with references to not 'shooting the messenger' for bringing bad news. In Shakespeare's *Antony and Cleopatra*, the Egyptian queen assaults a messenger and threatens to have him "whipped with wire and stewed in brine, smarting in ling'ring pickle", for bringing her the news that the Roman General Mark Antony has married another. "I that do bring the news made not the match," the messenger replies, before making a hasty exit. Over the past two months, India's 'diplomatic messengers' too have faced an ire that is unprecedented – criticised not for the message they bring, but for failing to convey effectively enough, the message New Delhi has sent out after Operation Sindoor (May 7-10, 2025).

Criticism of Indian diplomacy

Public commentary that is critical of the Ministry of External Affairs and its missions has focused broadly on three counts. First, that India received condolences and statements condemning the Pahalgam terror attack from all quarters, but not the kind of unequivocal support, especially from the neighbourhood, for retaliatory strikes on Pakistan, of the kind seen in 2016 (post-Uri) and 2019 (post-Pulwama). In 2016, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka and the Maldives backed India's decision to stay away from the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation summit in Pakistan after the Uri attack. In 2019, global solidarity with India forced even China to back a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) terror designation for Jaish-e-Mohammad chief Masood Azhar. Earlier, in 2008, there was international consensus in India's favour after the Mumbai attacks, when Hafiz Saeed and a number of Lashkar-e-Taiba terrorists were designated by the UNSC, and Pakistan was put on the Financial Action Task Force (FATF) grey list for the first time. Instead, this time, unfavourable comparisons have been made to Pakistan for the lines of support it received from China, Turkiye, Azerbaijan, Malaysia and the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC).

Second, the perception is that Pakistan has scored some diplomatic wins, despite widespread global understanding that Pakistan uses terrorists as state proxies. In April, Pakistan, a non-permanent member of the UNSC, managed to amend the resolution on Pahalgam to delete any reference to The Resistance Front (TRF), that claimed responsibility for the heinous attack.

Earlier this month, Pakistan was chosen as chair of the Taliban Sanctions Committee and vice-Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Committee at the UNSC, and secured loans from the International Monetary Fund and Asian Development Bank despite New Delhi's opposition. Next was the White House's lunch invitation to Pakistan Army chief (now Field Marshal) General Asim Munir, despite the belief in India that his "jugular vein" speech was a virtual green signal for the Pahalgam attack. In July, as Security Council President for the month, Pakistan will try to schedule meetings on the India-Pakistan conflict and Kashmir, even as India accelerates efforts to designate the TRF at the UNSC, and place Pakistan on the FATF greylist. India's diplomats will be tested again.

The third aspect pertains to United States President Donald Trump, who, despite official denials from India, has chosen to muddy the narrative of how the May 10 ceasefire was achieved, hyphenating India and Pakistan in more than a dozen public statements, and offering to mediate on Kashmir. His latest iteration of the comments this week, just hours after a telephone conversation with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, and just before his meeting with Gen. Munir, was possibly the most blatant. Thus far, Mr. Trump's statements, post-ceasefire, have not had a single word on the scourge of terrorism itself, showing just far apart the understanding between Delhi and Washington is at this time.

A flurry of diplomacy does not seem to have moved the needle on these criticisms. After Operation Sindoor, special delegations of Members of Parliament and former diplomats travelled to 32 countries. The most time (six days) was spent in the United States. After the G-7 meet, Mr. Modi has meetings ahead with BRICS leaders. External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar is visiting the U.S. for the Quad Foreign Ministers Meeting soon, after several visits to European capitals recently. The government had not essayed such a campaign after the 2016 or 2019 actions against Pakistan, indicating that it too feels that diplomatic efforts by the Ministry of External Affairs and missions abroad have been found wanting and need bolstering.

But much as the messenger in Shakespeare says, India's diplomats do not decide the message that India wishes to send after Operation Sindoor, and cannot be held responsible for its resonance. It is necessary for the government to study the contents of that message, the shift in geopolitical narratives and in how India is perceived, in order to build a more realistic assessment of how far international diplomacy can ensure the outcomes New Delhi desires *vis-à-vis* Pakistan.

The 'new normal'

With reference to the content of the message, Mr. Modi's three-pronged "New Normal" has raised eyebrows in some capitals. The first prong – 'Any act of terror is an act of war' – lowers the threshold for future conflicts, passing the trigger for Indian strikes into the hands of any terrorist, acting on orders on their own. The second – 'India will not bow to nuclear blackmail' – is not necessarily new, but has been left unarticulated thus far because it gives the appearance of a heightened nuclear risk for the region. The third – India will not distinguish between state and non-state actors henceforth – sends out an escalatory message, indicating that the next terror attack could well invoke 'Armageddon', rather than the controlled four day conflict in Operation Sindoor. While India's partners have not asked for evidence of Pakistan's links to Pahalgam, they look askance at other aspects – like why India has been unable to trace the terrorists responsible yet.

Next, it is necessary to note that global shocks in the past few years have changed how the world views India's tough messaging. Take for example, a growing number of statements by Indian Ministers about "taking back Pakistan occupied Kashmir" by force if necessary. These make many of India's interlocutors uncomfortable, given the current number of conflicts over territorial aggression underway, from West Asia, to Ukraine to the South China Sea. In the light of Israel's retaliation for the October 7, 2023 terror attacks, few wish to give any state a free hand for "retribution". New Delhi's refusal to criticise Russia for its invasion of Ukraine in 2022 and to raise its oil imports from Russia in the face of sanctions, lost it some support in the western world, especially Europe. The Modi government's silence on Israel's devastation of Gaza has also been met with disappointment in the Global South.

India, as Mr. Modi told Mr. Trump this week, views terrorism emanating from Pakistan, "not as a proxy war, but as a war itself". India's diplomats have been left explaining why their stock responses that "this is not an era of war" and that "dialogue and diplomacy" are the only way forward do not apply to India and Pakistan. Thus, it may be necessary for New Delhi to rethink how it frames its message in view of these changes, notwithstanding the global double standards inherent in the expectations from India.

Democracy in decline

Finally, there is need for introspection over how the Modi government's image itself has altered in the world since 2019, leading to diplomatic challenges on a number of fronts. These range from concerns abroad over laws such as the Citizenship (Amendment) Act, the amendment of Article 370, Internet bans and summary arrests in different parts of the country, and accusations against Indian government agents of involvement in transnational killings in the U.S. and Canada. Questions over the broader decline in democracy and the status of minorities within India have also increased in the past few years. India's delegations abroad (Operation Sindoor) had to field some of those questions during their travels.

India's right to defend itself from decades of Pakistan-backed, trained and funded terrorists is unassailable. But carrying a tough message on terror is easier for the diplomats tasked with the role, if in a strife-roiled world, the government plays to India's advantages, and what differentiates it from Pakistan – as a secular, stable, pluralistic, rule-abiding democratic and economic power.

suhasini.h@thehindu.co.in

India's tough message on terrorism and Pakistan will find more takers if it plays to its advantage it being a secular, stable and rule-abiding democracy

Exiting refugee status, getting back dignity

T. Ramakrishnan

Two recent unrelated developments, one in India and another in Sri Lanka, have brought into focus the issues of repatriation and the local integration of Sri Lankan refugees who have been living in Tamil Nadu for over 30 years.

First, the Supreme Court of India had refused to interfere with the verdict of the Madras High Court, which, in 2022, reduced the sentence of a refugee from 10 years to seven years – he had been convicted under the Unlawful Activities (Prevention) Act.

The convict, who had given an undertaking to the High Court that he would leave India on completion of the sentence, had approached the Supreme Court with the intent of settling down in the country, citing personal reasons, as he had completed the sentence. In its hearing, the two-judge Bench made an oral observation that "India is not a dharamshala (free shelter)" to entertain refugees from all over the world. It was a remark that came as a shock to refugees as Indian courts, on many occasions, have been empathetic towards them.

In the other development, a septuagenarian refugee, who returned to Sri Lanka on his own after spending years in Tamil Nadu, was detained by the authorities, much to his dismay, on his arrival at Palaly airport in Jaffna, the headquarters of the Northern Province of Sri Lanka. The reason was linked to the ground that he had left the country "without valid documents". He had been detained despite the Chennai office of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees facilitating his repatriation.

He was released after a furore. Sri Lanka's Transport Minister and the ruling Janatha Vimukthi Peramuna (JVP)'s senior leader Bimal Rathnayake responded swiftly by stating that the remand was due to "the automatic application" of law to persons who had emigrated through a "non-legal" port. He promised the community of immediate action to change the policy.

Different circumstances, different policies

Close to 90,000 Sri Lankan refugees have been in Tamil Nadu, within and outside rehabilitation camps. Though Tibetan refugees, numbering around 63,170 people, have been in India longer, there are at least a couple of differences between the two. In respect of Sri Lankan refugees who came to India between July 1983 and June 2012, organised repatriation took place till March 1995. But there has been no such exercise in the case of the other category, as the influx of the two groups of refugees was under entirely different circumstances. Unlike Tibetan refugees who have been settled in different States including Karnataka, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Arunachal Pradesh and the Union Territory of Ladakh, almost all the Sri Lankan refugees have been settled in Tamil Nadu, barring some in Odisha.

In fact, the fundamental difference between the two can be seen in the manner in which the Union Ministry of Home Affairs handles the matter in its annual reports. In the case of Sri Lankan refugees, the ultimate objective is of repatriation to Sri Lanka, while such language is not used with respect to the Tibetans. In the case of the Tibetans, the Union government formulated the Tibetan Rehabilitation Policy (TRP) in 2014, with no such document for the other group despite its larger numbers. The TRP also talks of an extension of welfare schemes to the community, an aspect that the Tamil Nadu government has been practising for years with respect of Sri Lankan refugees.

As the policy document lays down a framework for productive engagement of the refugees – either under government schemes including the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme or in the private and non-government sector in chartered accountancy, medicine and engineering – similar means can be extended to the Sri Lankan refugees. Even though nearly 500 young refugees in Tamil Nadu have got engineering degrees, hardly five per cent of them have found jobs in their disciplines as private companies, especially IT firms, are reluctant to employ them. If the Union government, without disturbing its traditional position on the repatriation of Sri Lankan refugees, can formulate a policy for this category of refugees too, they would find the move beneficial.

Live up to the theme

As it is over 40 years since the first batch of refugees came from Sri Lanka, it is time that the larger society debates how long the rehabilitation camps, which account for two-thirds of the total refugee population in the State, will continue to be maintained in the country. However well intentioned governments at the Centre and in the State may be, the tag of being a refugee is not an aspect that a person with self-respect can cherish.

Repatriation and local integration should form part of a package of durable solutions to be worked out by the authorities in consultation with all the stakeholders including Sri Lanka. The focus this year on World Refugee Day (June 20) is "solidarity with refugees". It is a theme that can be meaningful to them only if they lead their lives with honour.

ramakrishnan.t@thehindu.co.in

India's policy treatment with respect to Sri Lankan refugees on the one hand and Tibetan refugees on the other is stark

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Trump's claims

United States President Donald Trump's repeated claims over Operation Sindoor are a clear indication that Mr. Trump is unsure of himself (Page 1, "India will never accept a mediation: PM to Trump", June 29). The American President's claims are only a ploy to assume importance and proclaim that he is very influential in shaping world events.

C.G. Kuriakose,
Kothamangalam, Kerala

The ideal setting

We need to thank the central government for implementing a new rule standardising air-conditioner temperature between 20° C and 28° C. When air conditioners are set at unnecessarily low temperatures, they work harder, drawing more power, leading to higher bills and faster wear and tear. According to the Bureau of Energy Efficiency (BEE), every 1° C increase in an air-conditioner set point can cut energy consumption by up to 6%. A modest adjustment in set points may seem inconsequential in the face of India's vast cooling challenge. Yet, when 'multiplied across millions of units in households and offices nationwide, it signals a quiet revolution — one that can help secure a cooler, greener, and more sustainable future for all. The government's move reflects the need to optimise our response in ways that are technically sound and socially just'.

R. Sivakumar,
Chennai

Paddy procurement

I am writing this letter to highlight the poor state of the paddy procurement management system in Bargarh district of Odisha. Farmers are facing numerous difficulties due to delays in procurement, the lack of transparency, and inadequate support from the authorities concerned. The situation is causing significant hardship to the farming community. Timely procurement is crucial for our livelihood, but the system is not running smoothly, resulting in financial losses and distress among farmers.

Mukesh Kumar Sahu,
Bijepur, Bargarh, Odisha

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address and the full name or the name with initials.

Will delaying the Census affect its implementation?

Sanjay Kumar,

Co-Director of Lokniti, a research programme at the Centre for the Study of Developing Societies, New Delhi

Poonam Muttreja,

Executive Director, Population Foundation of India

PARLEY

On June 16, the Registrar General of India under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs issued a notification that India's population will be counted in 2027. Following demands by the Opposition parties, among other reasons, the government has also announced the inclusion of caste enumeration in the Census for the first time in independent India.

The last Census was held in 2011. The exercise was to take place in 2021, but was delayed because of the COVID-19 pandemic. It has now been further pushed to 2027. Will delaying the Census affect its implementation? Sanjay Kumar and Poonam Muttreja discuss the question in a conversation moderated by **Vijaita Singh**. Edited excerpts:

Was the Census deliberately delayed?

Sanjay Kumar: The Census should have taken place in 2021, but that was the time of the COVID-19 pandemic. Since everything was stalled in 2020 and we were under a strict lockdown for a good part of that year, the Census could not take place.

Do you see any political reasons for the further delay? Do you think the government wanted to time it with the delimitation exercise, which is frozen till 2026?

SK: I don't have an explanation for this delay. The pandemic was over by mid-2022. By the end of 2022, universities had opened, schools had gone back to a normal routine, and everyone had started going back to office. The delay for nearly three years after that is frankly inexplicable. I'm not sure why the government did not take the initiative earlier. Every time delimitation takes place, the exercise uses the previous Census data. So the government could have began conducting the Census in 2023 as well. Even if it did start conducting the exercise in 2025, it would have made no difference to the work of delimitation.

Can you tell us about the implications of a delayed Census?

Poonam Muttreja: The delay has serious consequences for governance and development. India continues to use Census data from 2011 data in 2025. The ground reality has changed dramatically since 2011. Population growth, internal migration, urbanisation, and fertility patterns have all accelerated/changed. But policy continues to run on outdated assumptions. The delay effects nearly every sector. School enrolment projections are inaccurate. Vaccine coverage targets have missed the mark. Social welfare programmes such as PDS (public distribution system) and MGNREGS (Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Scheme) cannot adjust to the actual population needs. The delay also affects disaster preparedness and infrastructure planning.

A view of Ranganathan Street in T. Nagar, Chennai. B. VELANKANNI RAJ

This is going to be the first digital Census in India. Are there any concerns about that?

PM: Digitisation can bring in efficiency, reduce manual error, and allow faster data processing. But a fully digital Census also risks excluding the very people who are the hardest to reach, such as those in rural households and informal settlements, those belonging to marginalised communities, and women. They may not have smartphones, stable electricity, or digital access. Take women, for instance – only 33% of rural women use the Internet. Among women in low income households, mobile phone ownership is significantly low. A 'digital first' approach without safeguards could reinforce the existing gender bias.

To succeed, this Census must retain door-to-door in-person enumeration, especially in areas that are difficult to access. The enumerators must be trained to work with diverse populations in regional languages and have an inclusive approach. Technology should support, not replace, the human engagement that is essential for collecting accurate data.

> To succeed, this Census must retain door-to-door in-person enumeration, especially in areas that are difficult to access. The enumerators must be trained to work with diverse populations in regional languages. Technology should support, not replace, the human engagement that is essential for collecting accurate data.
>
> POONAM MUTTREJA

The government is yet to announce any decision regarding the National Population Register (NPR), which is the first step towards the creation of a National Register of Citizens (NRC). In the 2021 Census, it was planned to be updated with the first phase of the Census. Do you think if the two are combined – the NPR and population Census – it may impact the process because of the controversies and fears around the NPR?

SK: If you are trying to do one piece of work and then you combine it with other work, there is a possibility of both getting tampered with. Things could get delayed, jumbled, and some information could get misrepresented.

But do you see the Centre not going ahead with the NPR so that the Census is done in a hassle-free manner?

SK: I would be in favour of getting the Census done separately because we should not forget that this is being undertaken after a very long time – 16 years! This is the first time that caste enumeration is also taking place as part of the Census. So a new element is already there. Why overburden the enumerators?

How difficult or easy will it be for the government to collect data on caste? In the Socio-Economic and Caste Census of 2011, around 40 lakh caste names were thrown up. There were instances of people writing their surnames instead of their community names. It was based on self-disclosure. What methodology do you think the government should follow to make the process robust?

SK: If we are raising questions about caste data, we can raise questions about the collection of other information as well. If people can answer questions about their assets, age, gender, and education, why should there be any difficulty in answering questions about caste?

But yes, training is important. If we are able to train our enumerators well, the respondents will be able to answer most of the questions. The enumerators need to know that Varma, for instance, is a surname, not a caste. If a respondent mentions this surname as their caste, the enumerators will have to ask a follow-up question.

PM: Asking about a person's caste is not going to be difficult. The UPA (United Progressive Alliance) government conducted a caste census nearly a decade ago, but never released the data. I think homework needs to be done well when we collect data on caste. Enumerators must understand all the caste sub-categories. Unless they themselves are well informed, they are not going to be able to deal with erroneous answers or inappropriate answers.

Why do you think Census is important for a country?

PM: The world is changing rapidly and so many things are uncertain. In such a scenario, the Census is the most important aspect to consider in not only planning and policymaking, but also in the allocation of resources. It helps us understand how climate change is impacting us, changing population dynamics, and patterns of digitisation. In India, to understand the rapid increase in urbanisation and migration patterns, we need numbers. We also know that India is an ageing society. The number of aged people is going to nearly double in the next 20 years. You can't let people age and then start planning. So given the rapidly changing environment, planning, allocation of resources, targeting the poor and targeting those who are marginalised are all objectives. In fact, the whole purpose of having a caste census is to invest in the most marginalised communities.

Do you think the government should consider reducing the 10-year period for conducting the Census so that we can have faster and more accurate data about these changes in society?

SK: Conducting the Census is a tedious, time-consuming process. It cannot happen overnight. The Census is not merely about counting the number of people. The government's policy formulation depends on the information collected during a Census. The large amount of information gathered is valuable for the government to implement various kinds of policies. We may feel that the government can do this every five years, but it is more appropriate to do it every 10 years. But we should make sure that the Census takes place on time and there is no break in between.

To listen to the full interview
Scan the code or go to the link
www.thehindu.com

NOTEBOOK

Dealing with might and fright while covering aviation

Reporting on the aviation sector can be challenging, but there are sources who are committed to bringing about meaningful change

Jagriti Chandra

Though I began covering aviation in 2014, I used to write about the sector alongside issues of women and child rights. It was difficult to explain to people why I wrote on such different sectors. While I wrote on aviation simply because there was a vacancy in the organisation where I worked, I had a natural interest in human rights issues. I would often joke about how the two beats satisfied different interests – while aviation captivated me with its glamour, human rights stories drew me in for the potential they had in making an impact on people's lives.

Over the last three years, I have been nearly exclusively focused on aviation. I have realised that it isn't as glamorous as it seemed. I often find myself venting to senior business editors in the industry over a drink on the challenges of reporting on the sector amid intense corporate pressures. These included, until recently, a long boycott by an airline.

The two beats are like chalk and cheese. While covering policy decisions on women and child rights, I often came in contact with NGOs, activists, academics, researchers, and lawyers who had dedicated their lives to social causes. Monetary interests were not on their mind; they were committed to a larger cause. I also found that this sector is dominated by women who show a lot of spine.

The same cannot be said of those working in the male-dominated corporate sector. In aviation and corporate affairs, self-preservation and the public image of the business house reign supreme. Some go to any extent – whether it is by using money power, intimidation tactics, or the age-old tactic of boycotts – to target journalists or even buy them out. Access is often granted to pliant journalists in lieu of their silence, and stories are selectively leaked in order to further the corporate agenda.

The real stories in this sector come from whistle blowers, who can be corporate employees, airline crew, air traffic controllers, aircraft maintenance engineers, or passengers. This is because there is no industry body to represent the real concerns of the people, whether of the staff or the travelling public, and to fix a compromised system where safety is at stake. While trade unions, though far and few between, contribute in their own ways, PR firms, which are hired to manage reputations of business houses, often use all their power and energies to exert pressure and have stories killed.

However, not everything is dark and gloomy. Sources who are deeply committed towards bringing about meaningful change find ways to connect with reporters despite threats to their livelihood. They talk bravely about issues such as airline safety and pilot fatigue. Some of these accounts have even helped highlight mishaps that have gone unreported to government bodies.

Occasionally, corporate leaders also recognise a reporter's work. Even amid intense scrutiny during a major crisis at their company, some corporate leaders distinguish themselves. An airline CEO, whose company faced extensive coverage in our paper during a turbulent period, exemplified this. He would constantly engage with me and answer all my questions with utmost respect. During one memorable exchange, he noted, "While we may have differences of opinion over the event, your championing of causes is commendable." The admiration, naturally, is mutual.

Last week, a London-bound Air India flight crashed in Ahmedabad soon after take-off. More than 270 people died in the tragedy. In the rare event of such an incident, some people also begin to understand why journalists pose tough questions to the industry and why such questions are not just important but essential. That acknowledgment can be uplifting and is finally what keeps a reporter going.

jagriti.chandra@thehindu.co.in

PICTURE OF THE WEEK | Tiding it over

A man seeks refuge as waves crash into houses and shanties at Bandra Bandstand in Mumbai. EMMANUAL YOGINI

Shot on OnePlus #FramesofIndia

FROM THE ARCHIVES The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO JUNE 20, 1975

Japan allays Soviet fears on pact with China

TOKYO, JUNE 19: The statement issued two days ago by the official Soviet news agency, Tass, which in effect warned the Japanese Government against agreeing to China's demand for inclusion of an anti-hegemony clause in concluding the Sino-Japanese peace agreement has placed Japan on the horns of a dilemma. The Russian Government's statement asked Japan to "give a proper rebuff to any actions of third States to create obstacles in the improvement of the Soviet-Japanese relations" which is interpreted by diplomatic observers as a clear warning to Japan of unfavourable consequences from Moscow, should the Miki Government acquiesce in China's adamant demand. Officially the Japanese Government has reacted rather coolly to the Soviet warning and Government spokesmen from Premier Miki downward have sought to give the impression that they are not unduly concerned over the Soviet statement. The Japanese Government's reply to the statement is expected to be conveyed to the Soviet Government in a few days and it is expected to point out 1) that Japan has worked consistently for promotion of the Soviet-Japanese friendship ever since the resumption of relations in 1956 and will continue to do so; 2) that the Soviet Union shall be fully aware of this and Japan finds it difficult to understand the reasons for the Soviet Government's statement.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO JUNE 20, 1925

Educational problems

LONDON, JUNE 18: Mr. P.J. Harlog, C.I.E., speaking at a dinner to welcome him at the Criterian Restaurant dwelt on the urgency of the difficulties of the educational problem in India. He believed that the great characteristics preserved in historic books and wonderful monuments and paintings in India and in the hearts of the Indian millions would survive any shock of foreign ideas. Regarding unemployment among the University graduates, Mr. Harlog believed that with the right kind of education in Bengal the hides and skins trade might be converted into a leather trade employing far more trained men.

From Page One

Khamenei can no longer be allowed to exist: Israel

However, White House Press Secretary Karoline Leavitt, who read out the President's statement, would not give details of what had led Mr. Trump to believe that negotiations with Iran were possible.

The Israeli military said the Arak site in central Iran had been hit "to prevent the reactor from being restored and used for nuclear weapons development".

Israel launched air strikes against its arch enemy last week, triggering a conflict that has left more than 200 people dead on both sides.

There was a "near-total national Internet blackout" in Iran on Wednesday, a London-based watchdog said, with Iran's *Fars* news agency confirming tighter Internet restrictions after initial curbs imposed last week.

Hospital director Shlomi Codish said 40 people were injured at the Soroka, where an evacuated surgical building was hit leaving smoke billowing.

An Israeli military official, who asked not to be named, said on Wednesday that Iran had fired around 400 ballistic missiles and 1,000 drones since the conflict began on Friday.

A Washington-based Iranian human rights group said at least 639 people, including 263 civilians, have been killed in Iran and more than 1,300 wounded. In retaliation, Iran has fired hundreds of missiles and drones, killing at least 24 people in Israel and wounding hundreds.

Officials blamed for handling of judge's case

The in-house committee's report had been confidentially forwarded to the President and the Prime Minister by former Chief Justice of India Sanjiv Khanna, days before he retired on May 13, after Justice Varma refused to voluntarily resign from office.

A removal motion against Justice Varma is expected to be introduced in Parliament during the Monsoon Session scheduled in July.

The report of the committee, comprising Justices Sheel Nagu, G.S. Sandhawalia, and Anu Sivaraman, noted that the currency notes "seen and found during the process of dousing of fire" were "highly suspicious items" and not of a small value. They could not have been placed in the storeroom without the tacit or active consent of Justice Varma or his family, the report submitted.

"The storeroom, which was used for keeping unused domestic items and liquor cabinets, was under the physical control of Justice Varma and his family members and, therefore, any suspicious item found in the storeroom will have to be accounted for by Justice Varma or his family members," the report said.

The inquiry committee refused to accept the version of the judge that he was a target of a conspiracy. It said it would be "well-nigh impossible" to "plant" currency in a high security residential premises of a sitting judge.

The report asked why Justice Varma, if what happened to him was indeed a "conspiracy", accepted his transfer from Delhi Allahabad without demur or not filed a complaint with the police or the Chief Justice of India or even the Chief Justice of the Delhi High Court.

The inquiry panel said "strong inferential evidence" established that the burnt currency was removed by Justice Varma's trusted staff from the storeroom during the early hours of March 15.

The committee expressed its strong view that the "misconduct" of Justice Varma was "serious enough" to call for initiation of proceedings for his removal.

Top court criticises curbs on *Thug Life*

"This litany of hurt sentiments... there is no end to it. One or the other is hurt by whatever he sees or hears and then there is vandalism... Where are we heading?" Justice Bhuyan remarked. The top court underscored that it is the duty of the state to ensure that mobs and groups that engage in violence are held accountable.

The controversy had stemmed from remarks made by Mr. Haasan regarding the Kannada language during promotional events for the film. The producers subsequently stalled the film's release in Karnataka following threats and a stand-off with the Karnataka Film Chamber of Commerce.

"Free speech in films cannot live in lurking fear of violence," Justice Bhuyan said.

Echoing the concern, Justice Manmohan asked, "Should everything be stopped... movies, theatre, nobody can recite a poem?"

"We are bound to protect the theatres," the State's counsel submitted, adding that authorities would not hesitate to initiate civil and criminal proceedings against any instances of threats or violence.

Senior advocate Sathish Parasaran, appearing for the producers, informed the Bench that he was satisfied with the "fair statement" made by the State in its affidavit and sought to withdraw the petition.

The State clarified that no formal ban had been imposed on the film.

An intervenor affiliated to Kannada language groups, represented by senior advocate Anand Sanjay Nuli, argued that Mr. Haasan's remarks were a "publicity gimmick" that hurt public sentiment.

110 students from war-torn Iran land in New Delhi, via Armenia

Families heave a sigh of relief as the students from Urmia University reach Delhi after days of uncertainty brought on by Israel-Iran conflict; they say Indian Embassy reached out and helped them; officials make arrangements for onward journey

Alisha Dutta
NEW DELHI

Waving Indian flags, the 110 students evacuated under Operation Sindhu from Iran heaved a sigh of relief as they landed in New Delhi in the early hours of Thursday.

In view of the continuing conflict between Israel and Iran, the Indian government evacuated the students from the Urmia University in Iran, got them to cross over to Yerevan, Armenia on Tuesday, and then flew them to New Delhi. Students said they reached Delhi after nearly 52 hours of travelling. At least 94 of the students were from Jammu and Kashmir, and the rest were from Delhi, Maharashtra, Uttar Pradesh and Rajasthan.

Safe arrival: Students evacuated under Operation Sindhu from Iran land in New Delhi on Thursday. SHASHI SHEKHAR KASHYAP

Anxious wait

At the Indira Gandhi airport in New Delhi, families of students from the northern States queued up to welcome their children, while officials from the southern States and that of J&K waited to escort them to their home town.

Naseeb Ahmed, the father of a second-year MBBS student at the Urmia University, told *The Hindu* that until he hugs his son, his heart will continue to race. "I know he is coming back but having lived with the fear of my child stuck in a war zone has made me very anxious," said Mr. Ahmed, a resident of Uttar Pradesh's Bulandshahr, as he was waiting at the airport.

As the students started walking out of the airport, they expressed joy on being back in India and being united with their families. Nargis, a resident of Mumbai, said that while the part of Iran where she lived did not see air strikes, the thought of living in a war zone was debilitating. "We did not know when our place of stay would be attacked, and the fear was paralysing, so we are very grateful to the government for evacuating us from there," said Ms. Nargis.

As Arman, a resident of Sultanpuri, was all smiles when he saw his family at the airport. "The Indian Embassy helped us a lot and reassured us but when you see missiles, and towns being bombarded by the Israelis, everything seems uncertain," he says as he hugged his family members.

J&K students upset

Meanwhile, the students from Jammu and Kashmir who had hoped to get flight tickets for their onward journey, refused to step out of the airport after they got information that buses had been arranged to ferry them to their home town.

A student who wanted to remain anonymous told *The Hindu* that it was unacceptable that they were asked to board buses instead of flights to reach Srinagar. "We have been travelling for the past four days and now we have been asked to board State buses and go on another long arduous journey for about 24 hours, this is unacceptable," said the student.

Taking cognisance of the development, Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah posted on social media platform X that the government taken note of the request of the students regarding the quality of buses arranged to transport them from Delhi to J&K.

"The Resident Commissioner has been tasked with coordinating with the JKRTC to ensure proper deluxe buses are arranged," read the post. The State government later arranged AC sleeper buses for the students.

Indian, Israeli officials hold talks on West Asian conflict

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Defence Secretary Rajesh Kumar Singh on Thursday held a telephonic conversation with the Director-General of the Israeli Ministry of Defence, Major-General Amir Baram, and they discussed updates on the current situation in West Asia.

On June 13, the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) had issued a statement expressing deep concern at the recent developments between Iran and Israel. "We are closely monitoring the evolving situation. India urges both sides to avoid any escalatory steps. Existing channels of dialogue and diplomacy should be utilised to work towards de-escalation," it said.

The MEA said: "India enjoys close and friendly relations with both the countries and stands ready to extend all possible support. Our Missions in both countries are in contact with the Indian community. All Indian nationals in the region are advised to exercise caution."

India to help citizens who 'wish to leave' Israel via land border

Kallol Bhattacherjee
NEW DELHI

Indian citizens who "wish to leave" Israel in the wake of its current conflict with Iran will be assisted in returning home through the land borders of Israel, the Union government said on Thursday. There are around 36,000 Indians working in Israel in various industries, agriculture projects, and academic institutions, according to sources.

The announcement came a day after Israeli ambassador Reuven Azar said that the Israeli government has been coordinating with the Embassy of India in Tel Aviv to evacuate those Indians who are willing to return to India as the Israel-Iran air war intensified.

"In view of the recent developments between Israel and Iran, the Government of India has decided to evacuate from Israel those Indian nationals who wish to leave. Their travel from Israel to India will be facilitated through the land borders and thereafter by air to India," the Ministry of External Affairs said, in a statement bringing Indians in Israel under Operation Sindhu that was launched on June 18 to evacuate nearly ten thousand Indian citizens from Iran.

"All Indian nationals are requested to register themselves with the Embassy of India in Tel Aviv at - http://www. indembassyisrael.gov.in/Indian_national_reg. In case of any queries, they may contact the 24/7 Control Room established at Embassy of India, Tel Aviv: telephone numbers: +972 54-7520711; +972 54-3278392; email: cons1.telaviv@mea.gov.in," said the MEA statement.

Canada says Khalistani extremists continue to fund violence in India

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Canada doubled down on allegations of a link between the Indian government and the Nijjar killing, while acknowledging for the first time, in a report released on Wednesday, that Canada-based Khalistani extremists continue to plan and fund violence in India.

The Canadian Security and Intelligence Service (CSIS), which named India, along with China, Iran, Pakistan and Russia as the "main perpetrators of foreign interference and espionage against Canada", released the report online a day after Prime Minister Narendra Modi met with Canadian Prime Minister Mark Carney at the G-7 Summit outreach in Kananaskis and agreed to restore High Commissioners and a number of dialogue mechanisms. It was tabled by the CSIS in the Canadian Parliament last week.

Police officers watch Sikh protesters participate in a rally as world leaders gather for the G-7 Summit in Calgary, Canada. REUTERS

The Ministry of External Affairs (MEA) declined to comment on the report, which indicates that while Canada is taking note of India's concerns over Khalistani groups more than in the past, it maintains its allegations over the Nijjar killing and other accusations of foreign interference, including transnational repression (TNR), which New Delhi has repeatedly denied.

The report added Canada-based Khalistani extremist groups for the first time to its section on politically motivated violent extremism (PMVE), indicating that the CSIS is taking India's complaints about violence from these groups more seriously than before, which has been a source of New Delhi's long-held grievance against Ottawa.

However, it said that while "some" of Khalistani separatist supporters took part in legitimate protests and other activities, "only a small group of individuals are considered Khalistani extremists because they continue to use Canada as a base for the promotion, fundraising or planning of violence primarily in India".

The report said Canada "must remain vigilant about continued foreign interference conducted by the Government of India".

It said Pakistan had attempted to interfere in Canadian politics, by helping "pro-Pakistan" candidates over those seen as "pro-India" and also carried out TNR activities to suppress Pakistani dissidents and critics in the country.

BCI hits back at SILF over foreign law firm rules

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Bar Council of India (BCI) on Thursday pushed back against criticism from the Society of Indian Law Firms (SILF), the apex body representing law firms in India, regarding its recent decision to allow foreign lawyers and law firms to operate in India in a limited capacity.

Responding to SILF's public statements, the BCI – the regulatory authority for the legal profession – stated that the group does not represent most Indian law firms, particularly smaller and newer ones.

"It (SILF) functions primarily as a closed group dominated by a few large, well-established firms. Its stance and actions do not reflect the concerns or aspirations of more than 90% of India's smaller or emerging law firms," BCI said.

Kuki woman killed, Meitei farmer injured in Manipur

The Hindu Bureau
GUWAHATI

Local villagers slammed govt. for failing to protect farmers near volatile ethnic buffer zone

A Kuki woman was killed in Manipur's Churachandpur district on Thursday, hours after a gunshot injured a Meitei farmer.

In a statement issued late evening, the Manipur police said Ningthoujam Biren Singh, a cultivator from the Bishnupur district's Phubala Awang Maning Leikai, was shot in the left arm by an unknown armed miscreant around 3 p.m. while working in his paddy field.

He was taken to the District Hospital, from where he was referred to the Regional Institute of Medical Sciences in Imphal, about 30 km away. His condition is reported to be stable.

"In response, the security forces launched a search operation in and around Langchingmanbi, Heichanglok, and the western areas of Phubala village. During the course of the operation, security forces came under fire from unknown armed miscreants and the forces retaliated accordingly," the police said.

"During the crossfire, a woman from Langchingmanbi village was found dead with a bullet injury. She was later identified as Hoikholhing Haokip, wife of the village chief of Langchingmanbi," the police said, adding that the local police made arrangements to transport the body to the Churachandpur District Hospital for required legal formalities.

The police said cases had been registered in connection with the incidents, and an investigation was under way. "Combined security forces are continuing search operations to nab the culprit(s). Every effort is being made to bring those responsible to justice at the earliest," the statement read.

The Phubala villagers slammed the government for failing to ensure the security of the farmers working close to the vulnerable "buffer zone", which separates the Meitei-dominated Imphal Valley from the surrounding hills where the Kuki-Zos are in the majority.

Subsequently, angry Bishnupur locals blocked a highway leading to Churachandpur, demanding action against armed Kuki fighters.

Meanwhile, the Kuki Women's Organisation for Human Rights (KWOHR) blamed Ms. Haokip's death on Meitei militants.

The organisation demanded the immediate arrest and punishment of the perpetrators of the crime, and strict enforcement of buffer zone with equal accountability on both sides.

ASI to organise global meet on Indus script

Sreeparna Chakrabarty
NEW DELHI

The Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) will host a three-day international conference from August 20 to 22 in Greater Noida to discuss deciphering the Indus Valley script.

Invitations have been sent out to experts working on the Harappan civilisation and culture both in India and abroad.

The ASI move comes months after Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin announced a $1 million prize for experts or organisations that succeed in deciphering the scripts of the Indus Valley Civilisation.

Sources in the ASI told *The Hindu* that the seminar would take place mainly through presentations, both offline and online.

The Indus script, comprising over 400 pictorial symbols, remains undeciphered due to the lack of bilingual texts and the brevity of inscriptions.

APPEAL

Baby Deepa Sarkar, Hospital No. MH016804297, 2 years 07 months daughter of Mr. Bancharam Sarkar admitted Manipal Hospitals is diagnosed to be suffering from Congenital Heart Diseases moderate sized Perimembranous VSD L->R Shunt, NCC Prolapse with Mild+AR (ECCENTRIC), Asymptomatic, incidentally detected, PSM Left Parasternal. She requires to undergo VSD Closure with AV Repair. The esimated cost of the surgery is **Rs. 5,00,000/-.**
Kindly send donation however small by Cheque/D.D/M.O Favouring **Save Poor Lives** A/c Deepa Sarkar, **Our Account Details:** S/B Account No. 20000913487. State Bank of India, R.A. Puram, and IFSC CODE: SBIN0001855, you can donate through Google Pay No. **9884607377**, UPI Id: **savepoorlives@oksbi**. All donations are exempted under 80G of I.T. ACT.
SAVE POOR LIVES REGISTERED PUBLIC CHARITABLE TRUST, Flat No. A1, Ceebros Garden, Ground Floor, Old No. 76 Kamarajar Salai, Raja Annamalaipuram, Chennai - 600 028. Contact No. **044 42044165 & 044 35691848,** Mobile: **9884607377,** Email: **savepoorlives@gmail.com**. Our website: **www.savepoorlives.com**

Cong. team for Odisha to go into assault on women

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Congress on Thursday named a five-member fact-finding team to visit Odisha and submit a comprehensive report on the alleged rise in crimes against women and the large number of women reported missing in the State.

The announcement followed the gang rape of a college girl at Gopalpur in Odisha.

Party general secretary Deepa Dasmunshi will convene the panel, which includes three MPs – Ranjeet Ranjan from Rajya Sabha, and Praniti Shinde and S. Jothimani from Lok Sabha. Former Mahila Congress chief Shobha Oza will also be part of the team.

"In light of the horrific rape incident... the Hon'ble Congress president has deputed a fact-finding team to visit Odisha and submit a comprehensive report on the situation," Congress general secretary (organisation) K.C. Venugopal said in a statement.

The incident occurred on Sunday night when the woman went to the beach with her classmate on the occasion of Raj Parv.

The complaint stated that a group of 10 men arrived, held her boyfriend, and took turns raping her.

Voting ends for bypolls to 5 Assembly seats in four States

Polling took place in the Assembly constituencies of Kadi and Visavadar in Gujarat, Nilambur in Kerala, Ludhiana West in Punjab, and Kaliganj in Bengal; counting of votes will be on June 23

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

A paramilitary soldier checks the voter ID card of a woman as she arrives at a polling station to cast her vote in the byelection in Kaliganj Assembly constituency in West Bengal on Thursday. PTI

Byelections were held in five Assembly constituencies – two in Gujarat, and one each in Kerala, West Bengal and Punjab – in four States on Thursday.

Polling took place in the Assembly constituencies of Kadi and Visavadar in Gujarat, Nilambur in Kerala, Ludhiana West in Punjab, and Kaliganj in West Bengal.

The Nilambur constituency recorded the highest polling percentage of 73.26% till 8 p.m.; the lowest was recorded in Ludhiana West (51.33%) in Punjab. Kadi saw a turnout of 57.90%, Visavadar (56.89%) and Kaliganj (69.89%).

The votes will be counted on June 23.

While the byelection in Kadi was necessitated by the death of BJP MLA Karsanbhai Punjabhai Solanki, in Visavadar, Bhayani Bhupendrabhai Gandubhai, MLA, had resigned from the Aam Aadmi Party and joined the BJP.

Nilambur went to the polls because of the resignation of P.V. Anvar. Mr. Anvar had won the seat twice with Left Democratic Front (LDF) support and then switched sides to the United Democratic Front (UDF). He had resigned as an MLA following differences with Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan.

In Punjab's Ludhiana, bypolls are being held owing to the death of AAP member Gurpreet Bassi Gogi.

Byelection to the Kaliganj Assembly seat in West Bengal was necessitated by the death of sitting Trinamool Congress MLA Nasiruddin Ahamed.

EC's new initiatives

According to the Election Commission of India, several new initiatives launched by the EC were implemented in these bypolls. The new initiatives include the provision of mobile deposit facility for the electors at all polling stations, upgraded voter turnout sharing process resulting in faster update of the approximate polling trends by ensuring that the presiding officer updates the voter turnout data at the close of polls before leaving the polling station, webcasting at 100% of polling stations ensuring constant vigil of the polling process, and individual mock poll training of all presiding officers.

Also, Special Summary Revision (SSR) of the Electoral Rolls was conducted before the bypolls for the first time in nearly two decades, the EC said.

Have difference of opinion with some in Congress party leadership: Tharoor

Press Trust of India
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Congress Working Committee (CWC) member Shashi Tharoor on Thursday said he had differences of opinion with some in the party leadership, but he was not going to speak about them in light of the byelection in the Nilambur constituency.

Speaking to presspersons here, Mr. Tharoor, who came under attack from some party colleagues for supporting the Narendra Modi government's stand following the Pahalgam terror attack, said the Congress, its values, and its workers were very dear to him.

The Congress MP said he had worked closely with party workers for 16 years and regarded them as close friends and brothers. "However, I do have differences of opinion with some in the Congress leadership. You know what I am talking about, as some of those issues are there in the public domain and have been reported by you [media]," Mr. Tharoor said.

He did not clarify whether his differences of opinion were with the national or State leadership. The Thiruvananthapuram MP indicated that he might talk about those differences after the bypoll results.

Shashi Tharoor

Mr. Tharoor's remarks come at a time when the Congress has not publicly backed him. Former Congress MP Udit Raj had called Mr. Tharoor the "super spokesperson" of the BJP over his remarks during his international delegation visits when he allegedly said India crossed the Line of Control for the first time in 2015.

Responding to the same, Mr. Tharoor on Thursday termed it a "misconception".

Asked if he was going to leave the party, Mr. Tharoor said he was "not going anywhere". "I am a member of the Congress party. Let the party decide what it thinks about me," he said.

Asked why he was not part of the byelection campaign, Mr. Tharoor said he was not invited to it as was the practice during the other byelections, including the one in Wayanad held last year.

"I do not go where I am not invited," he said, and added that he wanted the party workers' campaign efforts to bear fruit and the UDF candidate to win from Nilambur.

Mr. Tharoor said he was probably not needed in Nilambur. "If I was needed there, I would have gone there," he added.

Regarding his recent talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi, Mr. Tharoor said it was regarding the delegations' visits to various countries in connection with Operation Sindoor and the discussions held there. "No domestic politics was discussed," he said.

Defending his decision to accept the Centre's invite to head one of the delegations, he said that when he had become the chairman of the External Affairs Committee of Parliament, he had made it clear that he was focused on India's foreign policy and national interest and not the foreign policy of the Congress and the BJP.

Congress demands debate on China during upcoming Monsoon Session

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

Asserting that it has been demanding a debate on China for the past five years, the Congress on Thursday expressed hope that Prime Minister Narendra Modi will agree to it in the forthcoming Monsoon Session of Parliament.

In a social media post on X, Congress communications chief Jairam Ramesh said it was important to "collectively work towards a national consensus on vital national security and economic challenges posed by China's emergence as the world's dominant manufacturing power and as the world's second largest economy".

The party also kept up pressure on the government over the issue of U.S. President Donald Trump inviting Pakistan Army chief Asim Munir for a lunch meeting.

Jairam Ramesh

Galwan Valley incident

"Today is the fifth anniversary of PM Modi's infamous clean chit to China, when he said *Na koi hamari seema mein ghus aaya hai, na hi koi ghusa hua hai,* only four days after 20 of our brave soldiers gave their lives for the nation in Galwan on 15 June, 2020. This sorry episode concluded with a withdrawal agreement on October 21, 2024, under which Indian patrols require Chinese concurrence to reach their patrolling points in Depsang, Demchok, and Chumar," Mr. Ramesh said in his post.

Mr. Ramesh claimed that the disengagement agreement was nowhere close to the status quo demanded by the Indian armed forces and represented a tremendous territorial setback to India.

The Congress leader said it was increasingly clear that China played a pivotal embedded role in Pakistan's military operations during Operation Sindoor, going beyond the supply of weapon systems such as the J-10C fighter and PL-15E air-to-air missile to encompass the domains of artificial intelligence, multi-domain operations, and stealth.

Reiterating the party's demand for a detailed debate on China, he said, "We hope that the Prime Minister will finally agree to such a discussion in the forthcoming session of Parliament."

In the context of Pakistan, he pointed how the country's Army chief is neither the Head of State nor Head of the Government but was still invited to a lunch at the White House. "He is the Chief of Army Staff. Yet he gets invited by President Trump for lunch and receives much praise. This is the same man whose atrocious and inflammatory remarks formed the immediate backdrop to the brutal Pahalgam terror attacks orchestrated by the establishment over which he presides. It is a huge blow to Indian diplomacy (and huglomacy too)," he said.

In a first, Trump says leaders of India, Pakistan ended the conflict

Press Trust of India
NEW YORK/ISLAMABAD

Two "very smart" leaders of India and Pakistan decided to end last month's conflict that could have turned into a nuclear war, U.S. President Donald Trump said after holding a rare luncheon meeting with Pakistan Army chief Field Marshal Asim Munir at the White House.

Mr. Trump's comments on Wednesday crediting the leaders of the two countries in ending the May 7-10 hostilities are seen at variance with his claims over a dozen times in the past few weeks that he brokered the India-Pakistan ceasefire deal.

In his remarks to the media, Mr. Trump said he was "honoured" to meet Field Marshal Munir and that he discussed with the military chief the situation arising out of the Iran-Israel conflict, amid speculation that Washington is looking at using Pakistani military bases in case it decides to launch attacks on Tehran.

> Two very smart people decided not to keep going with that war... That could have been a nuclear war. Those are two nuclear powers, big ones, big, big nuclear powers, and they decided that
>
> **DONALD TRUMP**
> U.S. President

The U.S. President was also effusive in lauding Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Mr. Trump expressed keen interest in forging a "mutually beneficial" trade partnership with Pakistan based on long-term strategic convergence and shared interests, the Pakistan Army said in a statement.

Rubio at meet

The U.S. President was accompanied at the meeting by Secretary of State Marco Rubio, and U.S. Special Representative for the Middle East Steve Witkoff.

The Pakistani Army chief was joined by the country's National Security Adviser Lt. Gen. Asim Malik, who is also head of the Inter-Services Intelligence. Ahead of his meeting with Mr. Trump, Pakistan's Army chief reportedly pitched for the Nobel Peace Prize for Mr. Trump for preventing a nuclear war between India and Pakistan.

"The reason I had him here was that I want to thank him for not going into the war [with India], ending the war. And I want to thank Prime Minister Modi as well," the U.S. President said. "We're working on a trade deal with India. We're working on a trade deal with Pakistan."

The U.S. President said he was "happy" that "two very smart people decided not to keep going with that war". "That could have been a nuclear war. Those are two nuclear powers, big ones, big, big nuclear powers, and they decided that," he said.

PM to visit poll-bound Bihar, launch major projects

The Hindu Bureau
PATNA

In poll-bound Bihar, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is set to visit Siwan on Friday, where he is expected to address a public meeting, dedicate multiple development projects worth ₹9.5 crore, and flag off a new Vande Bharat Express train between Patliputra Junction in State capital Patna and Gorakhpur in eastern Uttar Pradesh.

This will be Mr. Modi's fourth visit since January to Bihar, with the Assembly election due in October-November. His visit to Siwan is politically significant as the district has sizeable numbers of Muslim, Yadav (Other Backward Class), and Scheduled Caste voters.

In U.K. visit, Goyal says India seeking trade agreements with rich, democratic countries

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal in conversation with Science Museum Director Ian Blatchford in London. PTI

Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal said the government was interested in doing trade deals with rich countries and democratic allies, as he distanced himself from previous governments' efforts to explore deals with countries he considered competitors.

Mr. Goyal's comments were made at the India Global Forum 2025 conference, during a conversation with Ian Blatchford at London's Science Museum.

The government was focused on "entering into robust trade agreements with the developed world", he said, contrasting it to the practice "15 years ago, when we were more focused on doing trade agreements with countries who are our competitors".

Mr. Goyal referred to trade deals with ASEAN (Association of South East Asian Nations) countries, presumably meaning The Regional Comprehensive Economic Partnership (RCEP) negotiations. These talks had commenced in 2012 and India had begun exploring participation in this agreement a few years earlier under the Congress-led UPA government. He described this as "silly" because the countries in the region have now become the "B Team of China".

Citing trade deals or negotiations with countries such as the U.K., Australia, Peru, the United Arab Emirates (UAE), and the European Free Trade Association countries, he said India's products complemented and did not compete with these countries' products.

"We don't hurt their economies," he said suggesting that a pair of jeans could be made most cost-effectively in India while medical devices (for instance) could be made most efficiently in economically developed countries. These arrangements would help India grow its innovation ecosystem, Mr. Goyal said, as he pushed for co-development.

"Let's work together as friends and allies of the democratic world," he added.

Asked by Mr. Blatchford if India could "save the NHS (National Health Service)", Mr. Goyal said the topic had become "too much of a political hot potato" in the U.K.

Yet he appeared to make a pitch for India being a destination for medical treatments if the problems the NHS faces (such as a lack of funding, shortage of staff and long wait times for treatment) were to become less of a political issue.

Mr. Goyal suggested that patients could fly to India for treatment and that this could be done in a way – in the right political environment – without negatively impacting British jobs but "supplementing and complementing the effort so that the citizens of United Kingdom and the residents of the U.K. live a healthier and happier life".

Goyal slams Oppn. for criticising Indian govt. in overseas trips

Sriram Lakshman
LONDON

In the U.K. for a conference, Commerce and Industry Minister Piyush Goyal criticised the Opposition for criticising the government overseas. Mr. Goyal was speaking at a discussion at the Science Museum as part of the India Global Forum 2025.

The Minister, who spent much of his time at the forum discussing the recently announced India-U.K. trade deal, commended the U.K. Labour Party for not backtracking on any commitments made to the Indian side by the Conservative Party, which was in power until early July 2024 and oversaw the majority of the trade negotiations with New Delhi.

"I must commend the current government for having committed to me well before your election, encouraging me to close the deal with the previous government," Mr. Goyal said.

"I'd like to commend both your political parties for that maturity that they have shown. I wish we had an Opposition equally mature who wouldn't come to your land... and to Oxford University... and run down his own nation," Mr. Goyal said to laughter from the audience.

Mr. Goyal was presumably referring to a talk by Congress leader Rahul Gandhi at the University of Cambridge in 2023, in which he said that Indian democracy was under threat.

INBRIEF

Tejashwi alleges firing outside residence, calls out 'Jungle Raj'

Bihar Leader of the Opposition Tejashwi Yadav on Thursday said that there was firing outside his official residence in Patna. In a post on X, the RJD leader said, "Today a bullet was fired outside my residence. In the demonic rule of NDA, the morale of the criminals protected by the government is so high that in the high security zone, at a short distance from the Governor's residence Raj Bhawan, Chief Minister's residence, Leader of the Opposition's residence, Judge's residence and the airport, the dreaded criminals are roaming around openly firing." He said, "Dare anyone call this a Jungle Raj! Anyway, the PM is coming to Bihar tomorrow, so the Godi media has to maintain a positive image."

Three missing as motorised boat partially sinks in Assam

Three people, including two schoolchildren, were reported missing after the motorised boat they were on partially sank in western Assam's Nalbari district on Thursday morning. The boat from the Peradhara Ferry Ghat to Larkuchi met with an accident in a tributary of the Brahmaputra. It was carrying more than 100 passengers, mostly children going to school. Nalbari District Commissioner Nibedan Das Patowary said six divers of the National Disaster Response Force and the State Disaster Response Force are engaged in the search and rescue operation for the missing. The others on board swam ashore, he said.

AAIB yet to decide where AI black box will be decoded

India did not have a dedicated lab before but Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau inaugurated one in April; previously, after the Kozhikode crash in Aug. 2020, the black box was sent to the U.S.

Jagriti Chandra
NEW DELHI

The government body investigating the Air India Boeing 787-8 crash in Ahmedabad last week will take a decision on where the black box data will be decoded "after due assessment of all technical, safety, and security considerations", the Ministry of Civil Aviation said on Thursday.

The statement said two different sets of black boxes were recovered from the crash site, one on June 13 and another on June 16. Each black box unit comprises the Digital Flight Data Recorder (DFDR) and Cockpit Voice Recorder (CVR).

"This model of aircraft has two black box sets," the press statement said about the Boeing 787-8 aircraft involved in the crash. Veteran pilots explained that these are called Extended Airborne Flight Recorders, of which one unit is in the nose and another in the tail section for redundancy (or fall back).

When last time the Aircraft Accident Investigation Bureau (AAIB) investigated the Kozhikode Air India Express crash in August 2020that killed 21 out of the total 190 onboard, the black box was sent to the lab of the American apex body for probing air crashes, National Transportation Safety Board. According to a former AAIB official, the entire downloading of the data was under the watchful presence of then Indian Ambassador to the U.S., Taranjit Singh Sandhu, who was in the facility for two days. At that time India did not have its own dedicated lab, the above quoted official said.

Looking for clues: A forensic team examines the tail of the aircraft, which crashed in Ahmedabad, on June 14. VIJAY SONEJI

The AAIB in April inaugurated a new Digital Flight Data Recorder and Cockpit Voice Recorder laboratory at its headquarters set up with an investment of ₹9 crore. But it is not clear whether the data will be decoded here.

Preliminary report

A government official closely involved with the probe said there would be a preliminary report. Interestingly, during the only other airline crash investigated by the AAIB (formed in 2012), after the Mangalore crash of May 2010 – the Kozhikode accident – only the final report was published within a year.

Officials, past and present, explained that the rules under which the AAIB carries out an investigation do not specify a timeline for a preliminary report even though UN aviation safety watchdog International Civil Aviation Organisation's Annex 13 requires one within 30 days. A similar rule is not part of the Aircraft (Investigation of Accidents and Incidents) Rules, 2017 formed under the principal law, the Bharatiya Vayuyan Vidheyak, 2024. The Rules define a preliminary report as a "communication used for the prompt dissemination of data obtained during the early stages of the investigation". But Clause 9 of the Rules dealing with preliminary investigation states that its scope is to "assess the classification of the occurrence and the expertise needed for detailed investigation".

One of the above mentioned officials said the Kozhikode probe team did not release a preliminary report because the Rules don't lay down a timeline for it, and require such a report to only categorise the nature of the mishap. He said the team involved in the drafting of the Rules held the opinion that such a report could be vastly different from the final investigation report, which may result in public criticism and media backlash.

Mortal remains of Clive Kunder, co-pilot of AI-171, are brought to a cemetery for the last rites in Mumbai on Thursday. ANI

215 victims identified a week after AI crash; kin receive 198 bodies

Abhinay Deshpande
MUMBAI

Authorities have identified 215 victims of the Air India flight AI-171 crash through matching DNA samples, with 198 bodies already handed over to their families, officials confirmed on Thursday.

The incident occurred a week ago when the London-bound aircraft, carrying 242 passengers and crew, crashed into a medical complex shortly after take-off from Ahmedabad on June 12. It claimed the lives of all but one person on board and a number of people on the ground. However, the government is yet to announce the official death toll.

Ahmedabad Civil Hospital's Medical Superintendent Rakesh Joshi said that the severe damage to the bodies caused by the crash and subsequent explosion necessitated DNA testing for identification.

The victims whose bodies were handed over to families included 149 Indian citizens who were on the flight, seven Portuguese nationals, 32 British citizens, and one Canadian. The remains of nine victims from the ground have also been handed over to their relatives.

Six injured survivors remain hospitalised, and all are reported to be in stable condition.

Investigators continue to examine the black box and crash site to determine the cause of the disaster. Ahmedabad Commissioner of Police G.S. Malik said the police are assisting in the investigation.

Rajnath Singh to participate in SCO Defence Ministers' meeting in China

Saurabh Trivedi
NEW DELHI

In his first such visit since Operation Sindoor, Defence Minister Rajnath Singh will travel to China to attend the Shanghai Cooperation Organisation Defence Ministers' meet in Qingdao from June 25 to 27. Pakistan Defence Minister Khwaja Asif too will attend the meet.

The visit comes as India and China take steps to restore ties, including the resumption of trade and travel links as well as dialogue mechanisms.

In addition, the Indian pilgrims bound for Kailash-Mansarovar – the first batch to undertake the trip since the 2020 military stand-off and Galwan killings - are also expected to reach their destination at the same time as Mr. Singh's visit to Qingdao.

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh with Chinese Defence Minister Admiral Dong at the ASEAN meet in Laos on November 21, 2024. ANI

The steps are part of the "normalisation" process agreed to by Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Chinese President Xi Jinping during their meeting in Kazan in October 2024, after a tense four-year military stand-off on the Line of Actual Control.

Both leaders are expected to attend the BRICS summit in Brazil from July 6 to 7, while Mr. Modi has been invited to the SCO Heads of State Summit in China later this year.

Sources said that in Qingdao, Mr. Singh will hold bilateral talks with Chinese Defence Minister Admiral Dong and Russian counterpart Andrey Belousov on the sidelines of the conference. While Mr. Singh had met Admiral Dong during the ASEAN Defence Ministers' Meeting-Plus in Laos last November, this will be their first exchange since the four-day India-Pakistan conflict, where Chinese military hardware support to Pakistan was significant.

Mr. Singh is expected to meet other Defence Ministers from the SCO states such as Iran, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and Belarus, while sources said no meeting with the Pakistani Minister is on the cards.

SCO members are expected to discuss defence and security cooperation, along with the SCO's special Regional Anti-Terror Structure (RATS) mechanism during the meet. Mr. Singh's participation at the SCO conference will also be watched closely for India's position in the Iran-Israel conflict.

'Hindi, English top choice as medium of instruction for Class 10, 12 exams'

Maitri Porecha
NEW DELHI

A majority of students appearing in Class 10 and 12 Board exams preferred Hindi as the medium of instruction, followed by English, an analysis by the Education Ministry says.

As compared to Hindi and English, the percentage of students opting for 16 regional languages as medium of instruction – Marathi, Bengali, Gujarati, Odia, Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Urdu, Assamese, Punjabi, Malayalam, Bodo, Sanskrit, Nepali, Santhali and Manipuri – ranged from 0.9% to 6.1%.

The analysis includes a total of 1,85,26,013 students who appeared for Class 10, and 1,49,24,580 who appeared for Class 12 Board exams in 2024.

While on average 88% of all Class 10 students who appeared for the Board exams passed, for the medium of instructions such as Gujarati, Kannada, Telugu and Assamese, the pass percentage is lower than the national average, officials say.

An average of 39.3% of students opted for Hindi as the medium of instruction.

"Only 82.7% students who appeared for Class 10 exams in Gujarati passed, while only 75.4% of those who appeared in Kannada passed. In Telugu and Assamese, 79.8% of students who appeared passed. This is lower than the national pass percentage of 88%," a senior official said.

Meanwhile, the pass percentage in the Malayalam medium was 99.9%, much higher than the national average; so it was for Odia (98%), and Manipuri and Punjabi (96.2%).

Telugu medium

Similarly, officials have expressed concern about the low pass percentage of Class 12 students with Telugu as the medium of instruction.

"While 86.5% of 1,49,24,580 students who appeared for Class 12 passed, among these only 61.7% of 1,06,936 students who appeared from Telugu medium passed," the senior official said.

Meanwhile, ranging between 90.5% and 92.3%, students studying in Tamil, Nepali, Punjabi and Manipuri had a much higher pass percentage than the national average of 86.5%, officials said.

Interestingly, while the pass percentage of Gujarati medium students was lower than the national average for Class 10, it was at 92.6% for Class 12.

Data analysed by the Ministry suggested that a majority of students, an average of up to 39.3%, opted for Hindi as the medium of instruction while appearing for Class 10 and 12 Board exams.

While fewer students, 31.4%, opted for English in Class 10, more students, 38.6%, picked English for Class 12.

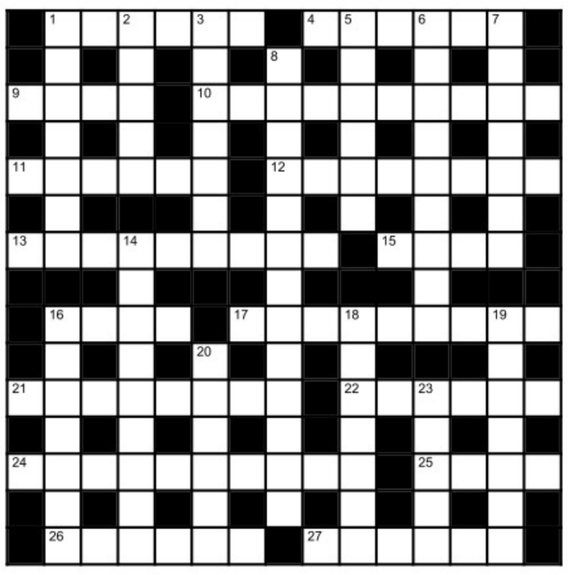
Many State Boards follow regional language as the medium of instruction till Class 10 and switch to English in Class 12.

TH CROSSWORD + 14516

(set by Bruno)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

1 Punishment's one way to preserve without honey, essentially (6)
4 America's about boys circling old city neighbourhood (6)
9 Protest to repeal privileges essentially dropped (4)
10 Surprised man soon crashed vehicle (10)
11 Professional film portraying leader of Wales (6)
12 River running through toxic slum air is characteristic of undeveloped area (8)
13 Girl's going around Indonesian island with head therapist and healer (9)
15 Stuff starts in summer - takes one week (4)
16 River and harmful stream (4)
17 Peacekeeper's chief detective caught in the middle of fake alcohol problem (9)
21 Artist framing groin artistically on dead - a feature of 4ac? (4,4)
22 Firm just fired leader to toe the line (6)
24 Overreliance of Pence ended in trouble (10)
25 Unpleasant feeling that distant relative, finally would be visiting (4)
26 Article on medicine covered a particular topic (6)
27 Ghost with hair billowing around bone (6)

Down

1 House is away from geostatic orbits (7)
2 Niece's head injured - very anxious (5)
3 Figure of hurt lumberman - medic abandoned (7)
5 Numerous ordinary men starting to come out swaggering, becoming less confident (6)
6 Runners often get happy - that may not be connected (9)
7 Money was returned by lumberjack's assistant (7)
8 Identical score composed about Royal lake in Germany (13)
14 Italian boy transporting Congolese leader disappeared (9)
16 After rain stopped early, people got out finally with clothing (7)
18 Dubious type of energy upper classes promoted (7)
19 Heartless relative remains free (7)
20 Nurse withheld documents - hiding recall (6)
23 Both genders linked by union, rejecting it is religious scholar (5)

SUDOKU

5	6				9	8	2	
	7			8				
					2		5	
	1	6		9		2		
		3	1		4	6		
		8		3		5	1	
	2		9					
				7			8	
	9	1	8				3	2

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★☆☆☆☆

No.SS6556 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

Solution to previous puzzle

A	I	C	A	L	U	E	G	
D	I	S	M	A	N	T	L	E
D	S	P	O	A	E	D	M	
S	T	U	M	P	E	D	V	E
U	A	U	D	E	N	A		
P	A	N	I	C	S	T	O	P
P	A	G	E	S				
C	C	F	O	I				
C	H	E	M	I	C	A	L	F
O	R	M	U	L	A			
H	N	R	T	N				
A	N	T	H	O	C	A	R	P
L	U	D	I	C				
P	W	N	A	I	E	L		
P	R	E	E	M	I	E	C	O
N	B	R	I	O				
A	N	O	I	K	E	L	C	
L	E	T	G	O	D	R	U	M
S	T	I	C	K				
S	Y	N	S	P	S	E	S	

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

4	3	1	6	5	7	9	2	8
7	6	2	8	1	9	4	3	5
9	5	8	3	2	4	7	6	1
2	4	3	7	8	1	6	5	9
6	1	9	2	4	5	8	7	3
8	7	5	9	3	6	1	4	2
5	8	4	1	6	3	2	9	7
3	2	7	4	9	8	5	1	6
1	9	6	5	7	2	3	8	4

FAITH

The Divine Couple

Parasara Bhattar's Sri Guna Ratna Kosa is a work in praise of Goddess Mahalakshmi. Bhattar lists some qualities that are common to Lord Narayana and to Mahalakshmi, said T.A.K. Srinivasacharya in a discourse. Among these are power, might, effulgence, jnana, wealth etc. In addition to these, both share another feature. They are ever youthful and attractive. The qualities of One are reflected in the other and vice versa, like a mirror showing one's reflection. But the Goddess also has some special qualities. She is kinder in dealing with those who err. She is more forgiving. He is the colour of a rain-bearing cloud. She has a golden hue. While He is young, She is even younger. However, Bhattar sees the inappropriateness of comparing Her to anything in the world, for Her form is aprakrutha.

Bhattar calls upon bhaktas to look at Goddess Ranganayaki of Srirangam. Her very posture indicates Her consideration for us. She also appears to be turning slightly towards Lord Ranganatha, in the manner of a mother pleading for forgiveness for Her children. Bhattar describes Ranganayaki. She is seated on a lotus, with Her right leg hanging down. The left leg is folded. The raised right hand shows abhaya mudra, to indicate that She offers us refuge and is our protector. Bhattar speaks of the glory of Ranganayaki's feet, and here He describes the Goddess who sits always on the Lord's chest. Her feet are placed on the Vedas, he says. Her feet, therefore, have the fragrance of the Vedas. Her feet are tender and fresh like lotus leaves. Her feet crush the garland of forest flowers that adorns His chest. Yet the flowers appear brighter and fresher because of contact with Her feet.

INBRIEF

HDB to unveil $1.5-bn IPO for retail investors on June 25

HDFC Bank unit HDB Financial Services will open initial public offering (IPO) for subscription for retail investors on June 25, the non-banking financial company said. It will invite bids from big institutional investors or anchor investors on June 24. In October, HDB Financial filed for an IPO of up to ₹125 billion ($1.5 billion). HDFC Bank, which holds a 94% stake in the lender, will sell shares of up to ₹100 billion while fresh shares of up to ₹25 billion will be issued. REUTERS

Amazon to invest more than ₹2,000 cr. in India operations

Amazon will invest more than ₹2,000 crore (some $233 million) in 2025 to expand and upgrade operations infrastructure, improve associate safety and well-being programmes, and develop new tools and technology for its fulfillment network in India. This investment was in addition to Amazon's existing investments in creating an operations network that would help the company deliver to all serviceable pin codes across India, the company said.

Future Generali India Life to pay ₹84.43 cr. bonus for FY25

Private insurer Future Generali India Life Insurance Company (FGILICL) has declared ₹84.43 crore bonus payout for 2024-25. It is the highest since inception of the company and set to benefit more than 94,000 participating policies. Of the bonus, ₹25.27 crore has been paid as part of survival or maturity benefits, while the balance bonus will accrue to eligible policyholders and disbursed in future financial years, the company said.

Pvt. non-financial firms' sales rose 7.1% in Q4FY25: RBI data

Aggregate sales growth (y-o-y) of 1,659 listed pvt. manufacturing firms eased to 6.6% in Q42024-25 from 7.7% during the previous quarter; sales growth (y-o-y) of IT firms rose 8.6% in Q4 vs. 3.1%

The Hindu Bureau
MUMBAI

Sales of listed private non-financial companies registered 7.1% growth (y-o-y) during Q42024-25 compared with 8% growth in the previous quarter and 6.9% in Q42023-24, as per Reserve Bank of India (RBI) data.

Aggregate sales growth (y-o-y) of 1,659 listed private manufacturing companies moderated to 6.6% during Q42024-25 from 7.7% during the previous quarter; even as major industries such as electrical machinery, chemicals, food products and pharmaceuticals industries recorded double-digit sales growth; weak performance of petroleum industry pulled down the sector's sales growth.

Rising expenditure: Manufacturing firms input expenses rose 8.3% in tandem with sales growth. REUTERS

On an annual basis, sales growth (y-o-y) of IT companies improved further to 8.6% in Q4 from 6.8% in the previous quarter and 3.1% a year earlier.

Sales of non-IT services companies continued to grow in double digits at 10% in Q4, on the back of good performance of telecommunication and transport, storage companies.

Manufacturing firms input expenses rose 8.3% in tandem with sales growth, however, raw material to sales ratio broadly was stable during Q4 from the previous quarter.

'SEBI easing merchant banker norms set to boost profitability'

Ashokamithran T.
MUMBAI

Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) approving merchant bankers (MB) to undertake unregulated activities such as advisory work sans separate legal entity has been welcomed by experts.

"In the current market environment, the role of MBs has practically reduced for many of the corporate actions involving listed companies such as delisting, buyback, rights issue and follow-on public offerings. In this backdrop, SEBI relaxing the norm of hiving off merchant banking entity and permitting them to carry out activities not regulated by SEBI is a welcome move and will be an additional source of revenue/fee-based income for MBs from non-fund based activities," said Yogesh Chande, a lawyer specialising in securities laws and partner, Shardul Amarchand Mangaldas.

'India FDI slid 1.8% in 2024, share in capital formation declining'

T.C.A. Sharad Raghavan
NEW DELHI

A new report by the United Nations (UN) shows how foreign investment is playing a shrinking role in India's development, with foreign direct investment (FDI) inflows making up 2.3% of all capital formation in India in 2024, down from 8.8% in 2020.

The World Investment Report 2025 by the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, released on Thursday, further shows that the total stock of foreign investment accumulated in India over the years stood at 14% of the country's gross domestic product (GDP) in 2024, down from 17.9% in 2020.

In fact, in absolute terms, India attracted $27.6 billion of FDI in 2024, down 1.8% from 2023 or less than half seen in 2020. The report, however, noted overall capital formation in India from other sources had been robust.

Reserve Bank issues project finance directions to banks

Lalatendu Mishra
MUMBAI

The Reserve Bank (RBI) on Thursday issued RBI (Project Finance) Directions 2025 asking Regulated Entities (REs) to maintain a general provision of 1.25% for under-construction commercial real estate (CRE) loans and 1% for infrastructure projects under construction.

However, asset provisioning requirements will be reduced at the time of operational phase.

This rate is far lower than the provision of 5% proposed in the draft for under-construction projects, 2.5% in the operational stage and 1% at cash generation stage to cover the loan. The directions have been issued to institutionalise a framework for the REs for financing project loans, while addressing the underlying risks.

The directions entail adoption of a principle-based regime for resolution of stress in project finance exposures, harmonised across REs and rationalisation of permissible 'date of commencement of commercial operations' (DCCO) extensions with an overall ceiling of three and two years for infrastructure and non-infrastructure sectors, respectively, the RBI said.

The Reserve Bank directions provide flexibility to the REs in extending the DCCO within the above ceilings, based on their commercial assessments.

MARKETS

MARKET WATCH

	THURSDAY	% CHANGE
Sensex	81,362	-0.10
US Dollar	86.73	-0.35
Gold	1,00,560	-1.47
Brent oil	78.92	4.16

NIFTY 50

	PRICE	CHANGE
Adani Enter	2420.60	-38.50
Adani Ports	1338.00	-34.60
Apollo Hosp	7009.50	76.00
Asian Paints	2268.00	-13.40
Axis Bank	1217.50	-3.50
Bajaj Auto	8496.00	28.00
Bajaj Finserv	1967.60	-13.80
Bajaj Finance	900.50	-18.50
Bharat Elec	398.55	-1.95
Bharti Airtel	1877.00	11.10
Cipla	1484.00	-14.10
Coal India	384.25	-6.10
Dr Reddys Lab	1326.10	12.80
Eicher Motors	5493.50	100.50
Eternal Ltd.	249.42	1.01
Grasim Ind	2693.20	17.80
HCL Tech	1713.90	-2.00
HDFC Bank	1935.30	1.40
HDFC Life	761.85	-4.35
Hero MotoCorp	4384.30	26.40
Hindalco	641.35	-4.00
Hind Unilever	2294.20	-3.10
ICICI Bank	1411.30	-1.30
IndusInd Bank	837.50	-13.00
Infosys	1618.40	-14.50
ITC	416.00	0.10
Jio Financial Services Ltd.	284.10	-4.05
JSW Steel	996.05	9.70
Kotak Bank	2146.40	14.00
L&T	3621.10	19.60
M&M	3094.80	53.70
Maruti Suzuki	12806.00	58.00
NestleIndia	2318.90	-21.90
NTPC	330.05	-2.35
ONGC	251.56	1.20
PowerGrid Corp	286.45	-0.85
Reliance Ind	1433.30	3.20
SBI Life	1789.40	-7.80
State Bank	785.10	-6.80
Shriram Finance Ltd.	652.20	-9.90
Sun Pharma	1647.60	-0.40
TataConsumerProduct	1088.30	23.10
Tata Motors	672.30	2.05
Tata Steel	151.00	-1.11
TCS	3424.00	-27.40
Tech Mahindra	1684.00	-26.70
Titan	3505.40	37.60
Trent Ltd.	5723.50	-11.50
UltraTech Cement	11420.00	14.00
Wipro	265.58	3.99

EXCHANGE RATES

Indicative direct rates in rupees a unit except yen at 4 p.m. on June 19

CURRENCY	TT BUY	TT SELL
US Dollar	86.52	86.84
Euro	99.32	99.69
British Pound	116.33	116.76
Japanese Yen (100)	59.39	59.61
Chinese Yuan	12.04	12.08
Swiss Franc	105.84	106.24
Singapore Dollar	67.17	67.43
Canadian Dollar	63.11	63.37
Malaysian Ringitt	20.30	20.39
Australian Dollar	55.96	56.18

Source:Indian Bank

THE 7 & THE X7
BAYERISCHE MOTOREN WERKE

BMW Varsha Autohaus | +91 72598 58881
BMW Deutsche Motoren | +91 99713 14315
BMW KUN Exclusive | +91 78258 51301

M BG-BGE

ISLAMABAD

‘Trump expressed keen interest in forging trade ties with Pakistan’

REUTERS

U.S. President Donald Trump expressed “keen interest” in building a “mutually beneficial” trade partnership with Pakistan based on long-term strategic convergence and shared interests, the Army said on Thursday. The remarks came after a meeting between Mr. Trump and Pakistan Army Chief Asim Munir at the White House. PTI

BEIRUT

Two million Syrians have returned home since the fall of Assad: UN

GETTY IMAGES

Over two million Syrians who had fled their homes during their country’s war have returned since Bashar al-Assad’s overthrow in December, UN refugee agency chief Filippo Grandi said on Thursday during a regional visit. The Syrian civil war, which erupted in 2011, had displaced half of the population internally or abroad. AFP

TAIPEI

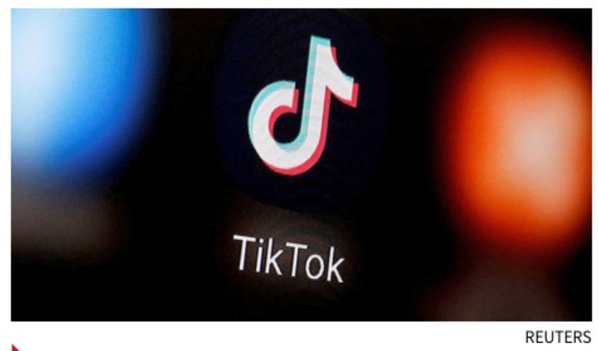
U.K. Navy’s patrol vessel sailed through Taiwan Strait, says Taipei

REUTERS

Taiwan said on Thursday that a British Navy patrol vessel sailed through the Taiwan Strait, a move that challenges China’s claim to the sensitive waterway. “The British Royal Navy patrol vessel *HMS Spey* sailed through the Taiwan Strait on June 18,” Taiwan’s Foreign Ministry said in a statement. AFP

WASHINGTON

Trump signs executive order to keep TikTok running for 90 days



REUTERS

U.S. President Donald Trump on Thursday signed an executive order to keep TikTok running in the country for another 90 days to give his administration more time to broker a deal to bring the social media platform under American ownership. It is the third time Mr. Trump has extended the deadline. AP

Russia warns U.S. against ‘military intervention’ in Iran-Israel conflict

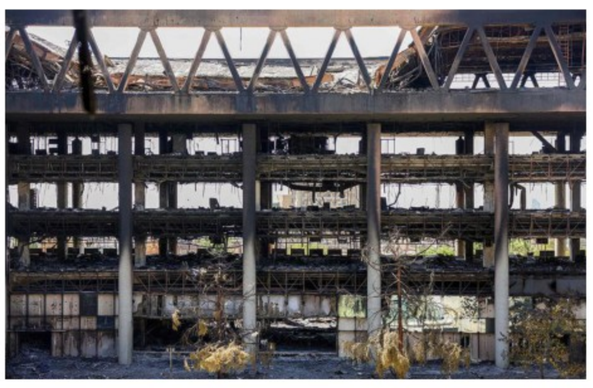
Kremlin has not provided military support to Iran with Putin pitching himself as a possible mediator in the war; he adds that Iran has not requested for help and says the strategic deal between the two countries did not guarantee military arms

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Russia on Thursday warned the United States not to take military action against Iran, amid speculation over whether Washington will enter the war alongside Israel.

Israel launched an unprecedented wave of strikes at Iran last week, to which Tehran responded with missile and drone attacks.

Moscow is one of Iran’s most important allies and has deepened military cooperation and inked a strategic partnership agreement just months ago.



Skeletal structure: The building of the Islamic Republic of Iran Broadcasting in Tehran that was hit a few days earlier by Israel. AFP

But the Kremlin has not provided military support to Iran in the face of Israeli air strikes, and Mr. Putin is pitching himself as a possible mediator even as he condemns Israel.

“We would like to particularly warn Washington against military intervention in the situation,” Russian Foreign Ministry’s spokeswoman Maria Zakharova told reporters.

Ms. Zakharova warned any U.S. military action “would be an extremely dangerous step with truly unpredictable negative consequences”.

Russia has for years been a key actor in West Asia, managing to maintain warm relations with all major players in the region.

But the fall of key ally Bashar al-Assad in Syria last year, and Israel’s war in Gaza – which Mr. Putin has repeatedly raised concerns about – have threatened to dent that position.

Despite their close military ties, Mr. Putin said Iran had not requested military help in the week since Israel launched its attacks.

“Our Iranian friends have not asked us about this,” Mr. Putin said in response to a question at a late-night televised press conference in Saint Petersburg. He also pointed out that the treaty signed in January was not a mutual defence pact and did not oblige either side to provide arms or assistance.

Asked what steps Russia would take if Iran’s supreme leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei was assassinated, Mr. Putin said: “I don’t even want to discuss such a possibility.”

His spokesman said later on Thursday that Russia would be prepared to send humanitarian aid, if requested to by Tehran.

Putin, Xi condemn Israeli strikes, call for a diplomatic solution

Agence France-Presse
MOSCOW

Russian President Vladimir Putin and his Chinese counterpart Xi Jinping on Thursday strongly condemned Israeli attacks on Iran in a phone call and stressed the need for a diplomatic solution, Moscow and Beijing said.

Mr. Putin and Mr. Xi “strongly condemn Israel’s actions”, Kremlin aide Yuri Ushakov told reporters after the call.

He added that Moscow and Beijing believed the end to the hostilities “should be achieved exclusively by political and diplomatic means”.

Mr. Xi told Mr. Putin that a ceasefire was the “top priority” and urged Israel to halt its attacks, Chinese state media reported.

Xi Jinping

“Promoting a ceasefire and cessation of hostilities is the top priority. Armed force is not the correct way to resolve international disputes,” Mr. Xi said.

“Parties to the conflict, especially Israel, should cease hostilities as soon as possible to prevent a cyclical escalation and resolutely avoid the spillover of the war,” he added.

At least 72 killed in Israeli strikes across Gaza Strip

Agence France-Presse
GAZA CITY

Gaza’s civil defence agency said Israeli forces killed at least 72 people on Thursday, including 21 who had gathered near aid distribution sites as famine looms after more than 20 months of war.

A civil defence spokesman said six persons were killed while waiting for aid in the southern Gaza Strip and 15 others in a central area known as the Netzarim corridor, where thousands of Palestinians have gathered daily in the hope of receiving food rations.

In northern Gaza, the spokesman said that nine separate Israeli strikes killed another 51 people, updating earlier tolls provided by his agency.

It all boils down to Trump’s choice as his next move may decide the course of war

NEWS ANALYSIS

Stanly Johny

When Israel launched its war against Iran on June 13, it went on an assassination spree in Tehran. Israeli strikes killed Iran’s armed forces chief, the commander of the elite Revolutionary Guards, other top generals and at least half a dozen nuclear scientists. Though Israel’s declared objective was to dismantle Iran’s nuclear programme, the strikes were aimed at decapitating the Iranian state. But if Israel thought such killings would blunt Iran’s capability to hit back, it was mistaken.

Iran recovered swiftly from the June 13 shock and replaced the assassinated commanders with new ones. Tehran launched its counter-attacks on the same day, firing hundreds of ballistic missiles into Israel. As days progressed, it hit multiple locations, including an oil refinery in Haifa, the premier Weizmann Institute of Sciences near Tel Aviv and the Soroka hospital in Beersheba.

On the third day of the war, Israel Defence Forces (IDF) claimed they had complete aerial superiority over Tehran’s skies. The IDF also said they had destroyed at least “one-third” of Iran’s missile launchers.

But Iran kept firing dozens of ballistic missiles every day, overwhelming Israel’s defence systems. On June 18, an unnamed American official told the *Wall Street Journal* that Israel was running low on its advanced Arrow missile interceptors. The official said the U.S. was also “burning through” its interceptors to defend Israel. And on June 19 morning, Iran launched another massive strike, hitting multiple locations, including the Soroka hospital.

A building at the Weizmann Institute of Science remains damaged in an Iranian strike on Sunday in Rehovot in Israel. REUTERS

Air war of attrition?

As both sides continue to trade fire, there are questions on where the conflict is headed. Iran has suffered huge losses. But the government seems to be demonstrating resilience. Several voices within Iran, who were critical of the government and the clergy, including Nobel Prize winner Narges Mohammadi, have come out against Israel’s war.

Israel has operational freedom in Iran’s skies, but Iran – 75 times bigger than Israel in terms of landmass – possesses thousands of ballistic missiles. Israel wants to destroy Iran’s nuclear programme, but it lacks the kind of bunker buster bombs needed to even attempt to destroy the Islamic Republic’s most fortified nuclear facilities. If an air war of attrition continues, Israel’s missile defence systems could come under greater pressure.

According to American media, Israeli officials are pressing the U.S. to join the war. U.S. President Donald Trump has already demanded an “unconditional surrender” from Iran. Iran’s Supreme Leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, has ruled out “surrender”, and warned of “consequences” if the U.S. joins the war.

This means Mr. Trump’s next decision would decide the course of the war.

One option before Mr. Trump is to rein in Mr. Netanyahu, who launched this war, and bring the conflict to an end. Iran has said it will stop firing missiles if Israel stops its strikes. But if Mr. Netanyahu stops strikes now, with the Iranian government and its nuclear programme still standing, it will be considered a defeat. But if he continues to strike Iran and Tehran keeps hitting back, Mr. Netanyahu will be under greater pressure at home. Hence, the focus shifts to the U.S.

Iran’s options

If the U.S. joins the war, it would be a major setback for Iran, which until now has carefully avoided targeting American bases in the region. But if the U.S. starts striking Iran along with Israel, Tehran is likely to dramatically escalate its responses.

Iran has warned that it would target American bases in the region. The U.S. has some 40,000 soldiers deployed in West Asia. Iran’s first target could be American bases in Iraq – a country where Iran has also built a strong network of Shia militias (Hashd al-Shaabi). If the U.S. uses its bases in the Gulf to attack Iran, Tehran could target those bases, located across the Persian Gulf, triggering an all-out cross-Gulf conflict.

Another option, according to Behnam Saeedi, a member of the Iranian Parliament National Security Committee presidium, is to shut the Strait of Hormuz, a narrow strait that connects the Persian Gulf to the Gulf of Oman which opens into the Arabian Sea. Roughly 20% all oil trade passes through the Strait of Hormuz. If Iran’s Navy closes or mines the Strait, it would significantly impact global oil trade. Houthis, the rebels in Yemen who control much of the country including capital Sana’a, could resume targeting oil tankers in the Red Sea

A third option for Iran is to abandon the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT), and cut off cooperation with the International Atomic Energy Agency. If Iran leaves the NPT, it is, in theory, free from its obligations. North Korea left the NPT in 2003 and tested a nuclear bomb in 2006.

But one dilemma Iran faces is that all available options – hitting American bases, shutting down the Strait of Hormuz or withdrawing from the NPT – will only escalate the war further. Iran will likely face a heavier military response from the U.S. As of now, neither Iran nor Israel has any off-ramps.

THE HINDU GROUP

THIS YOGA DAY,
YOUR ASANA
COULD TAKE
CENTRE STAGE.

Send us a photo and a video
(of not more than 90 seconds) of an asana
that grounds you and brings you peace.
Tell us what it means to you.

Scan the QR code to upload your entry before June 23, 2025.
Selected participants will win exciting gift vouchers*
and be featured on our Instagram page @threaderconnect

*T&C Apply

BEST WISHES

Exciting time for Indian cricket under new leadership: Stokes

REUTERS

Shubman is a very, very fine player. It's an exciting time for Indian cricket to be under new leadership. There's obviously a lot of pressure being captain of any Indian team. He's my opposition for the next six weeks, so I'm not going to talk too much. But all the best — Stokes on Gill.

FIRST AND FOREMOST

Taking 20 wickets is the team's priority, stresses Gill

REUTERS

India skipper Shubman Gill stressed that taking 20 wickets remained the team's priority. "You can't win a Test without taking 20 wickets, no matter how many runs you have scored. We could only be going with six pure batters, a bowling all-rounder and three to four premier fast bowlers or proper bowlers."

ALL ABOUT TECHNIQUE

'Front-foot defence becomes the most critical factor in England'

AP

The most important thing in England is to understand the length of the ball. Your front-foot defence becomes the most critical factor. When playing with the vertical bat, your hands should be close to your body. With the horizontal bat, you can afford to let your hands go away from the body — Sachin Tendulkar.

OPERATING IN TANDEM

'Bowling together as a unit will be the key if Bumrah is not playing'

GETTY IMAGES

If Bumrah is not playing, it's going to boil down to bowling together as a unit. They cannot be bowling as individuals. Bowl well in partnerships as that is going to matter. If the bowlers are able to do that and execute their plans, then the unit will become formidable — Sachin Tendulkar.

Baptism by Fire

Gill's India will look to clinch the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy and break its 18-year series jinx in England when it squares off in a five-Test battle beginning at Leeds on Friday

INDIA VICTORIOUS

1971 Won by **four wickets**, The Oval
1986 Won by **five wickets**, Lord's
1986 Won by **279 runs**, Leeds
2002 Won by **an innings and 46 runs**, Leeds
2007 Won by **seven wickets**, Nottingham
2014 Won by **95 runs**, Lord's
2018 Won by **203 runs**, Nottingham
2021 Won by **151 runs**, Lord's
2021 Won by **157 runs**, The Oval

H2H IN TESTS MATCHES INDIA ENGLAND DRAWN

	MATCHES	INDIA	ENGLAND	DRAWN
OVERALL	136	35	51	50
IN ENGLAND	67	9	36	22

SCANNING THROUGH THE DECADES

(INDIA-ENGLAND TESTS IN ENGLAND)

	M	India	England	Drawn
1930-39	4	0	3	1
1940-49	3	0	1	2
1950-59	9	0	8	1
1960-69	3	0	3	0
1970-79	10	1	4	5
1980-89	6	2	1	3
1990-99	6	0	2	4
2000-09	7	2	1	4
2010-19	14	2	11	1
2020-	5	2	2	1

THE CHARTBUSTERS

Overall	Batting	Current squads
Tendulkar (1575, 30 inns)	Most runs	**India:** Rahul (614, 18 inns) **England:** Root (1574, 25 inns)
Gooch (333) Lord's, 1990	Highest	Rahul (149), The Oval, 2018 Root (180 n.o.), Lord's, 2021
Root (7)	Most 100s	Pant and Rahul (two each) | Root (7)
	Bowling	
Anderson (105)	Most wickets	**India:** Bumrah (37, 15 inns) **England:** Stokes (26, 14 inns)
Trueman (8/31) Manchester, 1952	Best bowling (innings)	Bumrah (5/64), Nottingham, 2021 Stokes (4/33), Birmingham, 2022
Anderson (11)	Most four-fors	Bumrah and Siraj (three each) | Stokes (2)

SERIES SUCCESSES

India has triumphed thrice in a Test series in England

1971 D D W
1-0 (three-Test series)

1986 W W D
2-0 (three-Test series)

2007 D W D
1-0 (three-Test series)

THE FORM BOOK

(last five matches, latest game first)

India L L D L W
England W L W W L

THE DUELS

June 20-24: Leeds; **July 2-6:** Birmingham; **July 10-14:** Lord's; **July 23-27:** Manchester; **July 31-August 4:** The Oval

ALL MATCHES START AT 3.30 P.M. IST

Leeds

EYE ON THE SKY BBC.COM

Day 1	Day 2	Day 3	Day 4	Day 5
Sunny and a gentle breeze (High 30°c and Low 16°c)	Thundery showers and a gentle breeze (29° and 15°)	Light rain and a moderate breeze (22° and 12°)	Drizzle and a moderate breeze (19° and 12°)	Drizzle and a moderate breeze (21° and 13°)

SOURCE: ESPNCRICINFO

COMPILED BY R. NARAYANAN AND G. PRASAD

Not having any baggage is a positive: Gill

N. Sudarshan
LEEDS

There is a staccato feel to Shubman Gill's batting – half-cut, half-drive and the patented short-arm jab. The 25-year-old's maiden pre-match media conference as India's Test skipper was similar – sharp, brief and witty. He might not yet have the stately presence of his illustrious predecessors like Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma, but on Thursday afternoon, in a packed press-conference room, he looked the part.

The confidence on display will be much needed as Gill, along with coach Gautam Gambhir, looks to steer India in a new direction. The recent memories in Tests - though more than five months old – aren't pleasant, with India having lost back-to-back series, to New Zealand and Australia, for the first time in a decade.

Karun. GETTY IMAGES

"I don't think we'd be looking at that to be honest," he told when asked if the twin defeats will weigh the side down. "A lot of the talk is about our side not being experienced. But there are positives too in that we don't really have any baggage. Not all of the players have been to England. So that could be a thing that really makes a difference. We won't be carrying any baggage."

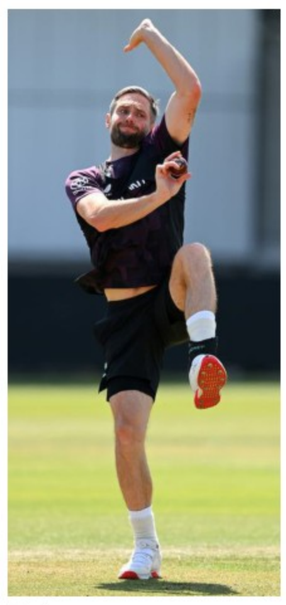
Gill is set to bat at No. 4, a position that is the fulcrum. Balancing the twin responsibilities of being the No. 1 batter and the leader will be a challenge.

"After Virat *bhai* retired, me and GG [Gambhir] *bhai* had a discussion. He was clear that he wanted me at No. 4 and I was also clear that I wanted to bat at that number.

"[When I bat] I don't really want to think that I'm the captain of the team because that sometimes puts too much pressure on me. Whenever I'm going out there, I want to play as a batsman and I want to dominate the opposition and be the best in the series. That's what I'm looking at."

In the age of T20 leagues and big-money franchise cricket, the red-ball game is said to be under increasing threat. But Gill's heart and soul seemed attached to the whites, as understood from his reply to a cheeky question on whether an IPL trophy win or a Test series triumph in England ranked higher.

"Definitely the Test series in my opinion," he said. "You don't get many opportunities as a captain to be able to come to England. Maybe two, and if you are the best of your generation, then maybe three. IPL comes every year. Winning Test series in England, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa is better."



Woakes. GETTY IMAGES

Ben stoked about Woakes' value

N. Sudarshan
LEEDS

Headingley is one of England's storied venues, with the Ian Botham Test from the 1981 Ashes, India's memorable win in 2002 and Ben Stokes' stupendous effort from 2019 coming immediately to mind. On Thursday, ahead of the first Test versus India, England skipper Stokes hoped for another blockbuster contest.

"Headingley is generally the best overall cricket wicket that we tend to play on," Stokes said. "We've had some fantastic games here. Once batters get in, they are very hard to stop because of how true the wicket can be and how fast the outfield is. But you always feel like there's something for a bowler.

"I know there's scheduled 30 degree heat but this is North [England]. It could turn up and it'd be six degrees [down] again and it could be raining. [We'll] just wait and see what the lovely northern weather's like for us this week."

One of Stokes' important allies in trying to make it memorable for England will be pacer Chris Woakes, a bowling all-rounder with 181 wickets and a century against India at Lord's.

"I think this is correct, but since me and Baz [Brendon McCullum] have been captain and coach, I don't think we've actually lost a game with Woakes in the team. That just proves how much of a valuable cricketer he is.

"Him being the leader of the attack... he's going to thrive off that responsibility. The relentlessness that he has, whether with the new ball or old ball, and then having the ability to bat at No. 8. That's a plus."

Gill era set to roll as India braces for the Bazball test

It remains to be seen who will bat at the crucial No. 3 spot for the visitors; Prasidh and Arshdeep in the race for third seamer's slot; Stokes, Woakes expected to shore up England bowling attack

INDIA IN ENGLAND

N. Sudarshan
LEEDS

It is quite fashionable - and a bit of truism too - to say that no team or player carries secrets anymore. Such is the speed at which information travels and so many are the opportunities to mingle - like in franchise T20 leagues - that every cricketer's every move is broken down, analysed threadbare and bespoke plans hatched.

Yet, when England hosts India in the first of five Tests starting Friday at Headingley here, there is a fair sprinkling of the unknown. How will a new-look Indian batting order sans Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma fare? How will an inexperienced English bowling attack perform? And how will a venue which has long been synonymous with swing and seam behave under hot conditions and forecast for very little rain.

The chief among the intrigues for India is about who would bat at No. 3, with skipper Shubman Gill - who started his career up top and then became the designated No. 3 - confirmed to occupy the No. 4 position, a right of passage, following in the footsteps of Sachin Tendulkar and Virat Kohli.

Kuldeep. REUTERS

B. Sai Sudharsan is spoken of highly, and Karun Nair has past experience of playing Tests, two seasons of county cricket for Northamptonshire and a 204 at No. 3 for India-A versus England Lions recently.

The bowling, set to be led by the irresistible duo of Jasprit Bumrah and Mohammed Siraj, will see a shuffle too. Prasidh Krishna and Arshdeep Singh lead the race for the third seamer's berth, and there is Akash Deep too. Prasidh can threaten the top half of the willow while Arshdeep brings a left-armer's variety and knowhow of the Dukes ball, having played for county side Kent.

Who among all-rounders Nitish Kumar and Shardul Thakur, and tweaker Kuldeep Yadav play will indicate the Indian think tank's philosophy. Nitish can shore up the batting while Thakur offers a better chance of taking 20 scalps.

With the turf expected to flatten progressively, the left-arm wrist spin of Kuldeep, that fetched up 19 wickets at 20.15 across four home Tests against England last year, can come in handy.

England, in contrast, cannot boast of such riches. Captain Ben Stokes and Chris Woakes are seasoned men but Stokes has had a limited role as a bowler in recent times while Woakes was out of action for four months (ankle trouble) and has just two First Class games leading in.

However, there is a familiar look to the batting. With Ollie Pope set for No. 3, it is near-certain that the home side will sport the same top-four of Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Pope and local hero Joe Root as it had the last time it met India, in Dharamshala in March 2024. England would however like a different result, for back then, it lost the match by an innings and 64 runs, a result that secured India a 4-1 series win.

Confidence can be gained from the fact that England has won each of the last five matches at Leeds going back seven years, including the innings-and-a-76-run victory over India in 2021.

A continuation of this streak will only further whet the appetite of the average fan in these parts after the enthralling World Test Championship final that ushered this summer's big-ticket action.

The teams: England (XI): Zak Crawley, Ben Duckett, Ollie Pope, Joe Root, Harry Brook, Ben Stokes (Capt.), Jamie Smith (wk), Chris Woakes, Brydon Carse, Josh Tongue and Shoaib Bashir.

India (from): Shubman Gill (Capt.), Rishabh Pant (wk), Yashasvi Jaiswal, K.L. Rahul, B. Sai Sudharsan, Abhimanyu Easwaran, Karun Nair, Nitish Reddy, Ravindra Jadeja, Dhruv Jurel (wk), Washington Sundar, Shardul Thakur, Jasprit Bumrah, Mohd. Siraj, Prasidh Krishna, Akash Deep, Arshdeep Singh, Kuldeep Yadav and Harshit Rana.

Match starts at 3.30 p.m. IST.

Tendulkar asks captain Gill not to worry about outside 'opinions'

Amol Karhadkar
MUMBAI

Sachin Tendulkar wants new India Test captain Shubman Gill to pay heed only to the dressing room and not bother about outside 'opinions'.

"There will be opinions, some positive, some negative. Some will think that he is being attacking, some will think that he is being defensive.

"He need not worry about those opinions," Tendulkar told *The Hindu* on Thursday, moments before the Anderson-Tendulkar Trophy formally replaced the Pataudi Trophy and the Anthony de Mello Trophy as the England-India series trophy in a joint announcement by the ECB and the BCCI.

"We need to worry about what has been discussed in the dressing room as a team and as a leader. Is he executing those plans in the interest of the team or not? Whatever has been planned in the dressing room, are they going in that direction or not. He should just focus on what he has to do for the team and those opinions change over a period of time.

Vital aspect: India's slip cordon will have to support the bowlers for the team to have any success. PTI

"You have to continue giving your best focus on what you need to do, and that is what my advice to him would be."

Gill will become India's 37th Test captain on Friday, when the first of the five-match series begins at Headingley.

While the previous trophies will be defunct, the Pataudi family's legacy will continue to be acknowledged with the winning captain being presented with the Pataudi Medal.

Still, the change in the name has resulted in legendary cricketers, including Sunil Gavaskar and Kapil Dev, voicing their disapproval.

Confirming that he suggested to "Jay Shah (ICC chairman), BCCI and ECB" after his consent was sought for the "new trophy", Tendulkar did not want to react to the criticism by his seniors.

"It's only their opinion, without knowing the facts. I don't want to get into that because I don't think any one of them knew what I was doing. So I would leave it to them to say whatever they have to say. I don't need to respond to that," Tendulkar said.

INBRIEF

Jemimah retained by Brisbane Heat in WBBL draft

India batter Jemimah Rodrigues has been retained by Brisbane Heat, with eight franchises picking up a total of 23 international players during the Women's Big Bash League draft in Melbourne on Thursday. Cricket Australia informed in a release that Jemimah, a "fan favourite" in Brisbane, was retained by the Brisbane Heat franchise along with West Indies' Chinelle Henry and SA's Nadine de Klerk.

Velavan makes the last four at Asians, assured of medal

Velavan Senthilkumar beat Malaysia's Joachim Chuah 11-7, 11-6, 11-6 in the quarterfinals at the Asian squash championships in Kuala Lumpur on Thursday. Velavan, ranked 45th in the world, will face second-seeded Lau Tsz Kwan of Hong Kong China for a place in the summit clash. Velavan, who claimed silver at the last edition in 2023, is at least assured a bronze.

Sabalenka complains after match suspended

World No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka complained after her second-round Berlin Open match against Switzerland's Rebeka Masarova was suspended after the first set due to bad light and dew on Wednesday. The Belarusian was upset and told the umpire: "You are stopping the match because she says that side is slippery? I just played two games on that side."

Mbappe hospitalised with acute gastroenteritis

Real Madrid forward Kylian Mbappe has been hospitalised with an acute case of gastroenteritis, the Spanish club said on Thursday. Mbappe missed Real's opening game at the Club World Cup against Saudi Arabian team Al Hilal in Miami on Wednesday because of a fever.

Petra Kvitova to retire after the US Open

Two-time Wimbledon champion Petra Kvitova plans to retire in a few months, the Czech said on Thursday. The announcement on social media came a day after Kvitova was granted a wild card for Wimbledon. "I am excited and very much looking forward to soak in the beauty of playing The Championships, Wimbledon one more time, a place that holds the most cherished memories in my career," Kvitova said. I am intending to finish my active playing career at the US Open."

'Lakers to be sold in record-breaking $10 billion deal'

Los Angeles Lakers is being sold in a record-breaking $10 billion deal that makes the iconic franchise the highest-valued NBA team in US history, ESPN reported on Wednesday. It said Lakers owners, the Buss family, would sell their controlling interest in the team to billionaire Mark Walter, who already owns a stake in the franchise.

Nissanka produces a career-best 187 to lead strong Sri Lankan riposte

The opener's blitzkrieg enables the host finish day three only 127 runs behind Bangladesh's huge first innings score of 495; veteran Matthews receives a guard of honour from the opposition in his farewell Test; Chandimal chips in with a half-century

Power-packed: Nissanka hit 23 fours and a six in his aggressive knock. AFP

BANGLADESH IN SL

Agence France-Presse
GALLE

Pathum Nissanka's career-best 187 helped Sri Lanka finish the third day of the first Test against Bangladesh in a strong position Thursday, only 127 runs off the Tigers' first innings score.

The 27-year-old opener anchored the Sri Lanka innings before they finished on 368 for four at the close of play, behind Bangladesh's 495.

He struck several key partnerships before he was bowled by Hasan Mahmud towards the end of the day's play. Nissanka, who had been under pressure before the match with only one half-century in nine innings, hit 23 fours and a six in his marathon 256-ball innings.

Nissanka looked set for his maiden double-ton when he was bowled by Mahmud, who was bowling with the second new ball.

Kamindu Mendis (37) and skipper Dhananjaya de Silva (17) will take charge of Sri Lanka's first innings on the fourth day, with the Galle wicket still playing well for the batters.

Besides Mahmud, Taijul Islam, Nayeem Hasan and Mominul Haque finished the third day with one wicket each in a largely uneventful session for Bangladesh's bowlers.

Veteran Angelo Matthews, walking out to bat in his farewell Test with a guard of honour from the opposition, hit 39 runs in a key cameo that took the hosts to 293 before he fell to Haque.

Wrapping it up

Earlier, the third day started with Sri Lanka wrapping up Bangladesh's innings in just three overs fiom ts overnight score of 484 for nine.

The scores:
Bangladesh 495 in 153.4 overs (Shanto 148, Mushfiqur 163, Litton 90, Asitha Fernando 4/86) vs Sri Lanka 368/4 in 93 overs (Nissanka 187, Chandimal 54, Matthews 39).

India to host Slovenia and Netherlands in Bengaluru

BJK CUP

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

India has been clubbed with the Netherlands and Slovenia for the Billie Jean King Cup World Group play-off women's tennis tournament to be staged from November 14 to 16.

India has also got the hosting rights for the event, on the outdoor hard courts of the S.M. Krishna Tennis Stadium in Bengaluru.

The three teams will play on a round-robin league format and the topper will make it to the qualifier. Like in the regional competition earlier, matches will feature two singles and a doubles. All matches will be played on best of three tie-break sets.

Susan Lamens (70), Arantxa Rus (91), Arianne Hartono (188) and Anouk Koevermans (190) are the top ranked players of the Dutch.

They have the 18th ranked doubles specialist Demi Schuurs and the 91st ranked Isabelle Haverlag as well. Slovenia has Veronika Erjavec (172), Tamara Zidansek (206), Kaja Juvan (239) and Dalila Jakupovic (319) as the best ranked players.

Similarly three teams each will compete in six other venues, leading to seven qualifiers overall.

The rest of the teams will return to group-1 in their respective zones.

The groupings: Group-A: Canada, Mexico (host), Denmark; **B:** Poland (host), Romania, New Zealand; **C:** Slovakia, Switzerland, Argentina (host). **D:** Czechia, Colombia, Croatia (host); **E:** Australia (host), Brazil, Portugal. **F:** Germany (host), Belgium, Turkey. **G:** The Netherlands, Slovenia, India (host).

'Hosting BJK Cup playoffs a historic moment for KSLTA'

Sports Bureau
BENGALURU

The Karnataka State Lawn Tennis Association (KSLTA) will host the Billie Jean King Cup playoffs at the S.M. Krishna Tennis Stadium here.

This will be the first time that the Billie Jean King Cup playoffs will be held on Indian soil.

Bengaluru will play host to Group 'G' on 14, 15 and 16 November. India has been grouped alongside Slovenia and the Netherlands.

India recently qualified for the playoffs following a good performance in the Asia/Oceania Group I tie held in Pune.

The five-member Indian team that featured in the qualifiers included Ankita Raina, Sahaja Yamalapalli, Shrivalli Bhamidipaty, Vaidehi Chaudhari and Prarthana Thombare.

"Hosting the prestigious BJK Cup playoffs at the S.M. Krishna Tennis Stadium will be a historic moment for us at KSLTA. We believe it will elevate India's profile in global women's tennis," Priyank Kharge, KLSTA Senior Vice President, said.

"There is a lot of promise with young tennis players performing exceptionally well, and a home playoff tie can be a huge fillip in boosting the growth of the sport particularly in the grassroots and also inspire potential talent," Sunil Yajaman, Hon. Joint Secretary of KSLTA and Tournament Director of the event, said.

Bhambri-Galloway duo goes down fighting

TENNIS

Sports Bureau

Yuki Bhambri in partnership with Robert Galloway got a second chance as lucky-loser but went down fighting to Taylor Fritz and Jiri Lehecka 6-4, 1-6, [8-10] in the doubles pre-quarterfinals of the €2,522,220 ATP tennis tournament in London. Bhambri and Galloway had lost the first round of the qualifying event to Rohan Bopanna and Sander Gille.

The results: €2,522,220 ATP, London: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Taylor Fritz (USA) & Jiri Lehecka (Cze) bt Yuki Bhambri & Robert Galloway (USA) 4-6, 6-1, [10-8].

€181,250 Challenger, Nottingham, Britain: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Jaime Faria (Por) & Jeevan Nedunchezhiyan bt Hendrik Jebens (Ger) & Albano Olivetti (Fra) 6-4, 1-6, [13-11].

€145,250 Challenger, Poznan, Poland: Doubles (pre-quarterfinals): Mateus Alves & Marcela Zormann (Bra) bt Anirudh Chandraskear & Ramkumar Ramanathan 7-6(5), 6-4; Sergio Gornes (Esp) & Vijay Sundar Prashanth bt Luca Sanchez (Fra) & Seita Watanabe (Jpn) 6-3, 6-2.

€54,000 Challenger, Royan: Doubles (quarterfinals): Adil Kalyanpur & Parikshit Somani bt Max Gurri & Nikolas Izquierdo (Esp) 6-3, 7-6(3).

$15,000 ITF men, Monastir, Tunisia: Singles (pre-quarterfinals): Dev Javia bt Tomas Luis (Por) 6-1, 6-3.

$30,000 ITF women, Chinese Taipei: Singles (pre-quarterfinals): Yeonwoo Ku (Tpe) bt Vaidehi Chaudhari 6-3, 6-1. **Doubles (quarterfinals):** Alisa Kummel & Elina Nepliy bt Vaidehi Chaudhari & Natsumi Kawaguchi (Jpn) 6-3, 6-3.

$30,000 ITF women, Wichita, USA: Singles (first round): Sahaja Yamalapalli bt Solymar Colling (USA) 6-2, 6-2.

$30,000 ITF women, Tauste, Spain: Singles (pre-quarterfinals): Hiromi Abe (Jpn) bt Vaishnavi Adkar 6-3, 7-5. **Doubles (quarterfinals):** Rutuja Bhosale & Ankita Raina bt Georgia Kalamaris (Fra) & Marina Oyonarte (Esp) 6-0, 6-0.

$15,000 ITF women, Monastir: Singles (pre-quarterfinals): Zeel Desai bt Loreana Donoso (Esp) 7-6(4), 6-4. **Doubles (pre-quarterfinals):** Julia Adams (USA) & Andre Lukosiute (Ltu) bt Helena Bueno (Bra) & Aaddi Gupta 6-0, 6-1.

BENGALURU ROUND UP

All-round show by Mokhit

K.S. Mokhit (4/31 and 64) put up an all-round performance, powering Sir Syed Cricketers' win against Engrades Cricket Club in the KSCA inter-club under-19 tournament here.

The scores: Engrades CC 215 in 46.3 overs (R. Rohit 31, Vedant Kumar 58, R. Monik 58 and K.S. Mokhit 4/31) lost to Sir Syed Cricketers 216/7 in 42.5 overs (Vedaraj Yadav 39, K.S. Mokhit 64, Medhas Mukund 57).
National United CC 149/8 in 30 overs (P.M. Vismai 47, Chandan Harish 73, R.A. Sriee Krish 4/24) lost to Century Cricketers 150/8 in 29.5 overs (U.R.S. Aadesh 42, B. Sai Akhilesh 35, Adarsh Ram 3/48).
Jawahar SC (2) 99 in 28 overs (A.M. Srihari 30) lost to City Gymkhana 100/2 in 17 overs (Brahmanya Kuber 43).
Young Lions Club 252/8 in 50 overs (Karan Raghavendra 101, A.B. Dhruva 3/49) bt Southern Cricketers 173 in 38.3 overs (Likith Gowda 30, Raed 39, C.N. Appanna 30, Mohammad Rayan 5/39);
Friends Union Cricketers, KGF 353/6 in 50 overs (Pankaj Gowda 38, T.N.V. Siddharth 94, Ashmit Shetty 55, Ishaan Yathiraj 102) bt Zodiac CC 26 in 13.3 overs (K.A. Saket 5/3).
Rajajinagar Cricketers 79 in 24.1 overs (Shreyas 4/8) lost to Palar SC, Kolar 83/2 in 14.3 overs.
Friends Union CC (1) 208 in 43.2 overs (A. Siddharth 33, Aditya Jha 53, Sai Yedidi 43) bt Cambridge CC 202 in 48.2 overs (Samyam Vinay 54, Ashitharya 4/36, A.A. Rohith 3/32).

Joshwa stars for Afghan

J. Joshwa's brace gave Afghan FC a 3-1 win over Gouthama FC in the BDFA 'C' football division league here on Thursday.

Other results:
Miska United FC bt Maharaja Socials FC 2-0.

Bengaluru Blues 'A' in stalemate with Blue Star 'B'

Bengaluru Blues HC 'A' was held to a 1-1 draw by Blue Star HC 'B' in the Travancore Cup hockey tournament on Thursday.

The result: Bengaluru Blue HC 'A' 1 (Prajan 37) drew with Blue Star HC 'B' 1 (Karthik 47).

Akaash continues in the lead

Akaash Ashok Kumar, with an overall pinfall of 2417 in 12 games, continues to lead in the second round of the men's Karnataka State ranking tenpin bowling tournament here on Thursday.

In the women's division, J. Preemal took the lead in round two with total pinfall of 1909 in 12 games, followed by P. Geetha (1884) in second position.

Cernogoraz excited about Shooting League of India

Sports Bureau
NEW DELHI

One of the best trap shooters in the world, former World and Olympic champion Giovanni Cernogoraz of Croatia expressed excitement after enrolling for the Shooting League of India (SLI).

The London Olympics champion, who won his World Championship gold in 2023 in Baku, said that he was looking forward to the "new experience" in the league. "The format seems a very interesting idea for the future," said Cernogoraz who had won the World Cup Final medal in Delhi in 2017.

Cernogoraz.

"I only have good memories of India, the food, the weather, the people. Everyone was helpful. The range was beautiful, the organisation was great, and I won a bronze," recalled Cernogoraz.

The Croat was confident that the mix of youth and experienced shooters will make the league come alive.

"Before a competition, I do reflex and stability exercises. I like running. During competition, I eat only carbs and fruits, no meat. This keeps me sharp," he said about his training regimen.

Lack of clarity on MRA status puts ISL 25-26 in limbo: sources

FOOTBALL

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Indian Super League (ISL) organisers have told the clubs that the 2025-26 edition will not kick off until there is clarity over the status of the Master Rights Agreement (MRA) signed with the All India Football Federation (AIFF), putting the country's top-tier competition in a limbo.

Football Sports Development Limited (FSDL), which runs the ISL, is the commercial partner of the AIFF, with whom the national federation signed a 15-year MRA in 2010. Under the MRA, FSDL pays the AIFF ₹50 crore annually.

FSDL, in turn, gets the rights to broadcast, manage and commercialise Indian football, including the national team.

"FSDL has told the ISL club owners verbally that the next edition will not start until there is clarity on the MRA," a source privy to the development told PTI on conditions of anonymity. "MRA ends in December and there is no clarity whether it will be renewed or a new agreement will be signed."

No information

The AIFF, however, said that FSDL has not told anything about the fate of the ISL to the national federation.

"We have not got any communication from the FSDL regarding ISL," AIFF deputy secretary general M. Satyanarayan said when asked if the league will start on time. In the last two seasons, the ISL began in September.

Indian junior archers enter five finals at Asia Cup Stage 2

Press Trust of India
SINGAPORE

Indian junior archers stormedg into five team finals at the Asia Cup Stage 2 here on Thursday.

The Indian men's recurve team, seeded second, defeated Bangladesh 5-1 in a one-sided semifinal.

The trio of Vishnu Choudhary, Paras Hooda and Juyel Sarkar dominated from the outset, taking the opening set 55-48.

Although the second set was tied at 55-55, the Indians bounced back and dropped just one point in the third set to win it 59-56 and seal the issue.

In the recurve mixed team event, Vaishnavi Pawar and Vishnu Choudhary defeated Singapore's Tabitha Ern Lin Yeo and Yue Long Li 5-3 to enter the final.

The Indian pair won the first set 37-35, tied the second 37-all, and lost the third 36-38 to make it 3-3. But Vaishnavi and Choudhary held their nerves to close out the match 38-34 in the final set.

Tense contest

India also assured itself of a medal in the compound men's team event after the trio of Kushal Dalal, Ganesh Thirumuru and Mihir Apar edged past fifth-seeded Australia in a tense semifinal decided by a shoot-off (30-29) after both teams were tied at 232 after four sets.

The top-seeded Indian compound women's team comprising Shanmukhi Budde, Tejal Salve and Tanishka Thokal defeated fourth-seeded Kazakhstan 230-229 in a nail-biting semifinal to ensure another medal.

The top-seeded Indian compound mixed team pairing of Shanmukhi and Kushal also confirmed another medal by defeating Indonesia's Nurisa Dian Ashrifah and Prima Wisnu Wardhana 155-154 in a nail-biting semifinal.

They will face third-seeded Kazakhstan in the final.

However, there was heartbreak for the Indian women's recurve team. Seeded fifth, the troika of Vaishnavi Pawar, Kirti, and Tamanna lost a thrilling quarterfinal to fourth seeds Japan 4-5 (26-28) in the shoot-off after a five-set battle.

The results: Recurve: Men: Semifinals: India bt Bangladesh 5-1. **Women: Quarterfinals:** Japan drew with India 4-4 (Japan won 28-26 via shoot-off). **Mixed: Semifinals:** India bt Singapore 5-3. **Compound (semifinals): Men:** India tied with Australia 232-232 (India won 30-29 via shoot-off). **Women:** India bt Kazakhstan 230-229; **Mixed:** India bt Indonesia 155-154.

Palmeiras downs Al Ahly, posts first win in Group A

Valverde misses a stoppage-time penalty as Real Madrid settles for a point against Al Hilal in new coach Xabi Alonso's first game in charge; Juventus proves too good for Al Ain

CLUB WORLD CUP

Agence France-Presse
EAST RUTHERFORD

Palmeiras drew first blood in Club World Cup Group A with a 2-0 victory over Al Ahly on Thursday in New Jersey.

Lionel Messi's Inter Miami face Porto in the group's other clash after two goalless draws in the first round of fixtures.

The match was suspended in the 63rd minute because of a weather warning, with players and fans at the MetLife Stadium instructed to "take shelter" because of a nearby storm.

Palmeiras were leading by two goals at the time, with a Wessam Abou Ali own goal sending the Brazilians ahead in the 49th minute before Flaco Lopez doubled their lead on the Egyptians 10 minutes later.

Victory took Palmeiras provisionally top on four points, with the other three sides level on one point each.

It was the third match at the tournament affected by adverse weather at the tournament.

Meanwhile, Real Madrid was held to a 1-1 draw by Saudi Arabia's Al Hilal in new coach Xabi Alonso's first game in charge on Wednesday.

In the late game, Juventus thrashed Al Ain 5-0 in Washington.

Federico Valverde had a stoppage-time penalty saved as Real was forced to settle for a point in the Group H match in Miami having taken the lead.

Alonso gave debuts to new signings Trent Alexander-Arnold and Dean Huijsen in defence.

Gonzalo Garcia started in his place and the 21-year-old seized his chance as he opened the scoring just after the half-hour mark from a Rodrygo assist.

Al Hilal hit back in its new coach Simone Inzaghi's first game on the bench with Ruben Neves levelling before the break from the penalty spot following a Raul Asencio foul.

Jumping for joy: Palmeiras players celebrate their second goal scored by Lopez. REUTERS

The results: On Thursday: Group A: Palmeiras 2 (Abou Ali 49-OG, Lopez 59) bt Al Ahly 0.

On Wednesday: Group G: Al Ain 0 lost to Juventus 5 (Kolo Muani 11, 45+4, Yildiz 31, Conceicao 21, 58).

Group H: Real Madrid 1 (Gonzalo Garcia 34) drew with Al Hilal 1 (Neves 41-pen).

CF Pachuca 1 (Gonzalez 56) lost to Salzburg 2 (Gloukh 42, Onisiwo 76).

Indian grapplers claim five gold medals

Sports Bureau

Indian wrestlers won five gold, including four in the women's section, at the Asian u-23 wrestling at Vung Tau on Thursday.

Priyanshi Prajapat (50kg), Reena (55kg), Srishti (68kg), and Priya (76kg) claimed gold, while Tanvi Gundesh Magdum (59kg) took a silver in women's competitions. Priyanshi defeated Mongolia's Munkhgerel Munkhbat 4-2, Reena beat Kyrgyz Aruuke Kadyrbek Kyzy 13-4 and Srishti outsmarted Chinese Yuqi Liu 10-0 in their respective finals. In a field of four, Priya won her three round robin matches to secure the top honour.

In Greco Roman, Sumit (63kg) also won his three round robin matches to clinch gold. Ankit Gulia (72kg) and Nitesh (97kg) picked up bronze.

LIVE TELECAST

Football: Club World Cup, DAZN, 6.30 a.m, 9.30 p.m., 11.30 p.m. (Friday); 3.30 a.m. (Saturday)

Sri Lanka vs Bangladesh: 1st Test, day 4, Sony Sports Ten 2 (SD & HD) & LIV, 9.45 a.m.

England vs India: 1st Test, day 1, Sony Sports Ten 1 & 5 (SD & HD) & JioHotstar, 3.30 p.m.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, Lakes
(East Zone & KR Puram Constituency), Room No. 309, 3rd Floor, Annex-3 building, BBMP Head office, N.R. Square, Bengaluru-02.

No. EE/Lakes/East&KRPC/TN-04/2025-26 Date: 19.06.2025

INVITATION FOR TENDER (IFT)

Short term Tender Notification (Only through GoK KPP Portal)

The Executive Engineer, Lakes (East Zone & K R Puram Constituency), BBMP, Bengaluru on behalf the Commissioner, BBMP invites Tenders from eligible contractors registered in BBMP or equivalent registration with CPWD / KPWD / Railways / MES / National Highway or any State Govt. Organisations for the following works.

Sl.No.	Name of the Work
1	Desilting and cutting of extra width of filled earth at Sunday market side (towards Chandrika Soap factory side) and fencing at Eastern side (road side) of Kacharakanahalli lake coming under East Zone.
	Value of work: **Rs. 350.00 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 5,25,000/-**
2	Upgrading of inlet at Seegehalli lake coming under K.R. Puram Zone.
	Value of work: **Rs. 100.00 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 2,00,000/-**
3	Desilting of Kalkere lake coming under K.R. Puram Zone.
	Value of work: **Rs. 1000.00 Lakhs.** EMD: **Rs. 15,00,000/-**

Stipulated Period of completion: **11 months**

Calendar of Events: **(1)** Tender documents may be downloaded from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in from 21.06.2025 after 16:00 hrs. (2)** Date of Pre-bid Meeting: **26.06.2025 at 15:00 hrs. in the office of the Chief Engineer, FECC, No. 308, 3rd Floor, Annex-2 Building, BBMP Head Office, N.R.Square, Bengaluru. (3)** Last date & time for receipt of tender **: 07.07.2025 upto 15:00 hrs. (4)** Date of opening of Technical bids : **08.07.2025 at 15:30 hrs. (5)** Date of opening of Financial bids : **After approval of Technical bid.** Further details may be obtained from the above office during office hours or from KPP Portal **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in**

Sd/- Executive Engineer
Lakes (East Zone & KRPC), BBMP

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE
Office of the Executive Engineer, (RR Nagar-Lakes), Room No.309, 3rd Floor, Annex-3 building, N.R .Square, Bengaluru-560 002

No: EE(Lakes-RRN)/Tend-02/2025-26 Date: 19.06.2025

SHORT TERM TENDER NOTIFICATION
(Two Cover System and Through GOK e-Procurement Portal Only)

Tenders on item rate basis are invited by the undersigned for the works mentioned below from the registered contractors of Bruhat Bangalore Mahanagara Palike or equivalent registration with CPWD/ KPWD/ Railways/MES or any State Government Organizations.
The Tender Document shall be downloaded from the GoK e-Procurement Website **(https://www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in)** on payment of prescribed fee noted against each item of work (non-refundable) in the form of e-Payment through e-Procurement Platform. The Tenderer should accompany a copy of the Registration Certificate valid upto the year of 2024 and shall be submitted through e-Procurement Portal. (Standard Tender Bid Document)

Sl. No.	Name of the Work/Value of Work (in Lakhs)/EMD in Rupees.
1	Rectification of damaged manholes, Strengthening of main bund in Ullala lake. Approx Value of Work **Rs. 125.21 Lakhs,** EMD **Rs. 1.90 Lakhs.**

Calendar of events:
(1) Availability of Tender Documents : **21.06.2025 after 16.00 Hrs. (2)** Pre -bid meeting: **27.06.2025 at 16.00 Hrs (3)** Last Date & Time for receipt of Tenders : **05.07.2025 upto 16:00 hours. (4)** Opening of Tender bid: **07.07.2025 at 16:30 hours. (5) Opening of Finance bid : After approval of Technical bid (will be informed later)**

Sd/- Executive Engineer, (Lakes-RRN) , BBMP.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

ADDENDUM

Under the said publication vide **No.:BWSSB/CE(P)/ ACE(P)-2/546/2025-26 Dtd: 17.06.2025,** it was informed to submit the EoI proposals through KPP portal which shall be read as **https://bwssb.karnataka.gov.in** instead of **https://kppp.karnataka. gov.in**

DIPR/CP/JA/1348/2025-26 **Sd/- Chief Engineer(Project).**

राष्ट्रीय पृथ्वी विज्ञान अध्ययन केंद्र
NATIONAL CENTRE FOR EARTH SCIENCE STUDIES
पृथ्वी विज्ञान मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार
Ministry of Earth Sciences, Govt. of India
Akkulam, Thiruvananthapuram -11

No: NCESS/P&GA/9424/10/2025 Date: 18.06.2025

RECRUITMENT

NCESS invites online applications from eligible Indian citizens for appointment to the post of
PROJECT SCIENTIST I
on contract basis with tenure upto **31.03.2026**.
Please visit website for details. Further changes, if any, will be notified through website only.
Website: **www.ncess.gov.in** / Phone: **0471 - 2511500.**

Sd/ **Senior Manager**

TAMILNADU NEWSPRINT AND PAPERS LIMITED
Kagithapuram - 639 136. Karur Dist. Tamil Nadu.
Ph.: 04324-277001 (10 Lines). Email : purchase.packing@tnpl.co.in

NOTICE INVITING TENDER

Tender No.	Material Description	Due date
252613 001961	Stretch Film 50 Microns 50CM Width - 22/24/50 CM Dia. for Unit - I & II.	02.07.2025

Corrigendum if any will be issued in TNPL Website & NIC Portal only. Detailed Terms & conditions, tender fee, EMD etc., are available in the tender document which can be downloaded from websites : **www.tnpl.com / https://tntenders.gov.in/nicgep/app**

DIPR/3155/Tender/2025 *TNPL - Maker of bagasse based eco-friendly Paper*

TAMILNADU CEMENTS CORPORATION LIMITED
(A GOVERNMENT OF TAMILNADU UNDERTAKING)
5th Floor, Aavin Illam, No.3A, Pasumpon Muthuramalingam Salai, Nandanam, Chennai- 35.

Short e-Tender Notice

e-Tender Ref. Nos	Name of the Works	Est.value in Rs.	EMD in Rs.	Due Date
09/2025-26	Appointment of transport contractors for movement of packed cement from Ariyalur Cement Works to various destinations on rate contract basis	9.87 Crore	50,000	04.07.2025
10/2025-26	Appointment of transport contractors for movement of packed cement from Alangulam Cement Works to various destinations on rate contract basis	1.24 Crore	50,000	04.07.2025

Important Note:
For e.T.Nos.09 & 10/2025-26, pre-bid meeting will be held on **23.06.2025** at **4.30** PM & 5.00 P.M respectively at TANCEM, Registered Office, 5th Floor, Aavin Illam, No.3A, Pasumpon Muthuramalingam Salai, Nandanam, Chennai-600 035.
The Tender document can be downloaded from **https://tntenders.gov.in**. Corrigendum /Addendum to this publication, if any would appear only on the above said website.

DIPR/3158/TENDER/2025 **General Manager (Marketing)**

जवाहरलाल स्नातकोत्तर आयुर्विज्ञान शिक्षा एवं अनुसंधान संस्थान
JAWAHARLAL INSTITUTE OF POSTGRADUATE MEDICAL EDUCATION & RESEARCH
(स्वास्थ्य एवं परिवार कल्याण मंत्रालय, भारत सरकार के अधीन राष्ट्रीय महत्व का संस्थान)
(An Institution of National Importance under Ministry of Health & Family Welfare)
भारत सरकार / GOVERNMENT OF INDIA, धन्वंतरि नगर, पुदुच्चेरी / Dhanvantari Nagar, Puducherry- 605 006
Phone: 0413-2296022 वेबसाइट / Website: www.jipmer.edu.in e-mail: jipmersrhr@gmail.com

Advertisement No.SR/1/2-2025/ADMN.I

Competitive Examination (Stage-I) for Recruitment to the post of Senior Residents on regular basis - JULY 2025 session at JIPMER Puducherry

Online applications are invited from Indian citizens as per Govt. of India Residency Scheme, for tenure post of Senior Residents for a maximum period upto 3 years at JIPMER Puducherry. These posts include existing vacant posts, backlog vacancies for SC, ST & OBC and the posts which are likely to fall vacant by 31-12-2025. Subject wise details of posts can be seen on the Institute website. Selection will be done by an online computer-based test (CBT) followed by Interview (Stage-II) of shortlisted candidates.

Online Registration and applications	
Opens on: 20th June, 2025	Closes on: 15th July, 2025

Recruitment Examination		
Date of Computer based test	Duration of Examination	Examination cities
27-07-2025 (Sunday)	09.00 AM to 10.00 AM	Delhi/NCR, Mumbai, Kolkata, Chennai & Puducherry

Important: For prospectus, number of posts, eligibility criteria, detailed information etc. please visit the website www.jipmer.edu.in. All applicants are required to visit the website regularly since all subsequent Corrigendum/ Addendum/Updates will be uploaded in the website only.

DIRECTOR

TIRUMALA TIRUPATI DEVASTHANAMS : TIRUPATI
CORRIGENDUM NOTIFICATION File Roc.No. B6/2832123/2025

NAME OF THE POST: General Manager [Information Technology]-01 Post, from the eligible service Officers/Retired Officers, professing Hindu Religion, on deputation/ Contract basis from any organisation / corporation established by the Government of Andhra Pradesh (or) India, State/Central Govt., or State/Central PSU or State/Central Statutory Corporation. **LAST DATE for receipt of applications 30-06-2025.** For further details such as qualifications and other terms and conditions, please login to TTD Website **www.tirumala.org.**

TTD-40021/10/2025-PRO SEC (Adv.No.108), Date:19-06-2025 **EXECUTIVE OFFICER**

MISSING

Nithya Nickson (20 years old), daughter of Lini, residing at Pallipparambil House, Thykkattukara Post, Aluva, and Mahima (19 years old), daughter of Rajesh, residing at TC 71/1995, Vikalanagar, Vallakkadavu Post, Thiruvananthapuram, have been reported missing from Santhi Bhavan in Kammattipadam, Ernakulam on 06.05.2025 at 3:00 PM. A case has been registered at Kadavanthra Police Station under Cr. 286/2025, u/s 57 of the KP Act, and investigation is ongoing. If any information is obtained regarding these girls, it should be reported to the nearest police station or to the phone numbers provided below:

Nithya Nickson **Age 20** | **Mahima** **Age 19**

District Police Chief, Kochi City	:	**0484 - 2385000**
Deputy Police Commissioner, Kochi City	:	**0484 - 2385001**
Assistant Police Commissioner, Ernakulam Central	:	**0484 - 2394352**
Kadavnthra Police Station	:	**0484 - 2207844, 9497913402**

F2/342/2025/I&PRD

E-mail ID: cebuildings_orissa@yahoo.co.in; cebuildings@rediffmail.com; Tel. - (0674)-2391523
OFFICE OF THE ENGINEER-IN-CHIEF (CIVIL), ODISHA
NIRMAN SOUDHA, UNIT-V, BHUBANESWAR
INVITATIONS FOR BIDS (IFB)

File No- B-IV-H-(H&D)-53/2024 Lr. No.- 23590 Bhubaneswar, the 16th June, 2025

Invitation For Bids - Bid Identification No. C.E. (B) - 13 / 2025-26

1.	The Chief Engineer (Buildings-I), Odisha, Bhubaneswar, on behalf of Governor of Odisha, invites percentage rate bids in double cover system in ONLINE MODE only, for the works, **"Construction of New CHC Building at Bijepur in the District of Bargarh"** as detailed below.		
2.	Nature of work	:	Building Work
3.	No. of work	:	01 No.
4.	Bid Cost	:	₹ 10,000/- (each)
5.	Class of Contractor	:	'A' / Special Class
6.	Availability of Bid Documents in the website	:	From dt. 25.06.2025 to 17.00 Hours of dt. 09.07.2025.
7.	Date of Opening of Bid	:	Dt. 10.07.2025 at 11:30 AM
8.	The Bidders have to participate in ONLINE bidding only. Further details can be seen from the website : https://tendersodisha.gov.in. Any addendum /corrigendum / cancellation of tender can also be seen in the said website only.		

Chief Engineer (Buildings-I), Odisha, Bhubaneswar

B-220: OIPR-34117/11/0109/2526

कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग वृत डूंगरपुर
क्रमांक : टी.एस./निविदा फाईल/2025-26/डी-536 दिनांक : 02.06.2025

निविदा सूचना संख्या - 03/2025-26
NIB Code: PWD2526A1004

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से विभिन्न सड़क व पुल निर्माण कार्यों मय पांच वर्ष कि मरम्मत एवं संधारण की अवधि लिए उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार / केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों / केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/डाक एवम् दूर संचार विभाग / रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के उपयुक्त श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से कार्यों हेतु ई-टेन्डरिंग के माध्यम से निर्धारित प्रपत्र मे बजट घोषणा 2025-26 के कुल 18 सडक निर्माण कार्य जिनकी कुल लागत राशि रु. 3430.89 लाख है, प्राप्त की जावेगी। निविदा से संबंधित विवरण वेब साईट http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in व http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in पर देखा जा सकता हैं। कार्यवार यू.बी.एन. संख्या निम्नानुसार हैं :-

NIB Code No: PWD2526A1004

UBN No: 1	PWD2526WSOB03294	UBN No: 2	PWD2526WSOB03295	UBN No: 3	PWD2526WSOB03296
UBN No: 4	PWD2526WSOB03297	UBN No: 5	PWD2526WSOB03298	UBN No: 6	PWD2526WSOB03300
UBN No: 7	PWD2526WSOB03301	UBN No: 8	PWD2526WSOB03307	UBN No: 9	PWD2526WSOB03309
UBN No: 10	PWD2526WSOB03312	UBN No: 11	PWD2526WSOB03314	UBN No: 12	PWD2526WSOB03318
UBN No: 13	PWD2526WSOB03321	UBN No: 14	PWD2526WSOB03322	UBN No: 15	PWD2526WSOB03326
UBN No: 16	PWD2526WSOB03327	UBN No: 17	PWD2526WSOB03329	UBN No: 18	PWD2526WSOB03330

(मोहन राम बिश्नोई),
DIPR/C/7494/2025 अधीक्षण अभियन्ता सा.नि.वि. वृत डूंगरपुर

कार्यालय अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता, सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग, संभाग-प्रथम, उदयपुर
क्रमांक :- ACE/NIT/2025-26/D-141 दिनांक : 02/06/2025

निविदा संख्या 05/2025-26

राजस्थान के राज्यपाल महोदय की ओर से पुल निर्माण कार्य हेतु उपयुक्त श्रेणी में सार्वजनिक निर्माण विभाग राजस्थान में पंजीकृत संवेदकों एवं राज्य सरकार/ केन्द्र सरकार के अधिकृत संगठनों / केन्द्रीय लोक निर्माण विभाग/डाक एवम् दूर संचार विभाग/ रेल्वे इत्यादि में पंजीकृत संवेदकों, जो कि राजस्थान सरकार के ए, एए श्रेणी के संवेदकों के समकक्ष हो, से निर्धारित प्रपत्र मे पुल निर्माण कार्य के लिए ई-प्रोक्यूरमेन्ट प्रकिया से ऑन लाईन निविदायें आमंत्रित की जाती हैं।

कार्य का नाम	पुल निर्माण कार्य
निविदा की कुल लागत	राशि रु. 1692.00 लाख
ऑनलाईन निविदा आवेदन डाउनलोड एवं अपलोड करने की तारीख	05.06.2025 प्रातः 9:30 बजे से 25.06.2025 सांय 6.00 बजे तक
Bid Security को Egras Challan रूप में जमा कराने की स्थिति में	निविदा में वर्णित बजट मद में एक ही चालान से सम्बन्धित अधिशासी अभियन्ता के नाम दिनांक 25.06.2025 सायं 6.00 बजे से पूर्व जमा करवाई जानी आवश्यक है तथा चालान की प्रति निविदा के साथ website पर upload किया जाना आवश्यक है
Bid Security बैंक गॉरन्टी (BG) के रुप में जमा कराने की स्थिति में मूल बैंक गॉरन्टी (BG) जमा कराने की अन्तिम तारीख एवं स्थान	26.06.2025 को सायं 06.00 बजे तक निविदा खोलने वाले कार्यालय से एक अपर (कार्यालय मुख्य अभियन्ता (Bridge), सा.नि.वि. जयपुर) एवं एक लोअर (कार्यालय अधीक्षण अभियन्ता, सा.नि.वि. वृत सलुम्बर) में एवं दिनांक 27.06.2025 को दोपहर 02.00 बजे तक निविदा खोलने वाले कार्यालय में। साथ ही बैंक गॉरन्टी (BG) की प्रति निविदा के साथ website पर upload किया जाना आवश्यक है
ऑनलाईन निविदा खोलने की तारीख	27.06.2025 सायं 4.00 बजे से

निविदा से सम्बन्धित विवरण वेबसाईट **http://dipr.rajasthan.gov.in, http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** व **sppp.rajasthan.gov.in** पर देखा जा सकता है। सम्पूर्ण निविदा प्रक्रिया **http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in** पर ऑनलाइन सम्पादित की जावेगी।
NIB Code:- PWD2526A0983, **UBN NO:-** PWD2526WLOB03214

अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियन्ता
DIPR/C/7445/2025 सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग-प्रथम उदयपुर

E-mail:- acezoneii@yahoo.com/acejaipur2.pwd-rj

कार्यालय अति. मुख्य अभियंता, सा.नि.वि., सम्भाग-द्वितीय, जयपुर
पी.डब्ल्यू.डी. कैम्पस, जैकब रोड, जयपुर क्लब के सामने, जयपुर
फोन: 0141-5110537, 5110501, एक्स-299, फैक्स: 0141-5110537

क्रमांक:- 829 दिनांक:- 12/06/25

निविदा संशोधन सूचना संख्या- 04/2025-26

इस कार्यालय द्वारा जारी निविदा सूचना संख्या 04/2025-26 में सारणी की क्रम संख्या 04 एवं क्रम संख्या 12 के कार्यो को छोडकर अन्य कार्यों की निविदा अब 19.06.2025 को अपरान्ह 3.00 बजे तक बेची जाकर दिनांक 20.06.2025 को अपरान्ह 3.00 बजे खोली जायेगी। इस सारणी की क्रम संख्या 04 की निविदा अपरिहार्य कारणों से निरस्त की जाती है। जो राज्य की उपापन पोर्टल (**http://eproc.rajasthan.gov.in, http://sppp.rajasthan.gov.in**) एवं विभागीय वेबसाईट **http://pwd.rajasthan.gov.in.** पर देखे जा सकते हैं। निविदा की शेष शर्तें यथावत रहेंगी।

S.no	UBN	S.no	UBN	S.no	UBN
1	PWD2526WLOB01748	5	PWD2526WLOB01686	9	PWD2526WLOB01691
2	PWD2526WLOB01749	6	PWD2526WLOB01687	10	PWD2526WLOB01897
3	PWD2526WLOB01861	7	PWD2526WLOB01688	11	PWD2526WLOB01898
4	PWD2526WSOB01862	8	PWD2526WLOB01689	12	PWD2526WLOB01899

अतिरिक्त मुख्य अभियंता
DIPR/C/8108/2025 सा.नि.वि. सम्भाग द्वितीय, जयपुर

GOVERNMENT OF TAMIL NADU
TAMIL NADU WOMEN'S EMPLOYMENT AND SAFETY PROJECT

NOTICE INVITING e-TENDER

Roc. No.454/Schemes/2024 Date : 20/06/2025

e-Tenders are invited by the Project Director, Tamil Nadu Women's Employment and Safety (TNWESAFE) Project, towards the **"Hiring of a consultancy agency to develop a state-level framework for the Women's Quality Employment Plan (WQEP)"** for a duration of six months. The tender document (RFP) can be downloaded free of cost from **https://tntenders.gov.in** on 24.06.2025, at 03.00 PM onwards. Online bid submission starts from 24.06.2025 at 03.00 PM and ends on 24.07.2025 till 03.00 PM. Offline bids will not be accepted.

The Project Director
(TNWESAFE) Project,
DIPR/3045/Tender/2025 **Department of Special Programme Implementation**

READ
SPORTSTAR
EVERY FORTNIGHT.
TO SUBSCRIBE,
VISIT
www.thehindugroup.in/subscribe

This AI PC is all your child needs for their dream careers.

Because by 2030, AI will create 170 million new jobs.

intel.

Personalized learning

Project prototyping

100+ AI tools for productivity

3D visualization

intel CORE ULTRA

Smarter learning starts with the power of **Intel Inside®**.
That's Padhai ka Future.

Scan to see how

FRIDAY
June 20, 2025
BENGALURU

THE HINDU

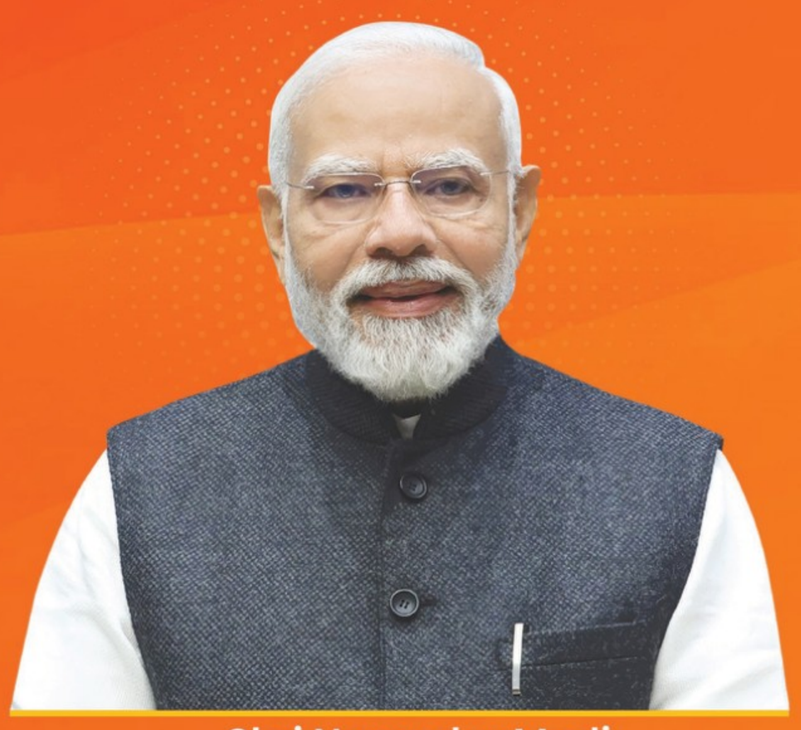
www.thehindu.com
INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

https://newsth.live/fb
https://newsth.live/x
https://newsth.live/ig

RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945

Vol. 56 • No. 146

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna



Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

ଓଡ଼ିଶା ସରକାର
ସତ୍ୟମେବ ଜୟତେ
ओडिशा शासन

Seva
Sushasan
Garib Kalyan

Shri Mohan Charan Majhi
Chief Minister, Odisha

11 Years of Central Government
1 Year of Odisha Government

Foundation Stone Laying & Inauguration of Infrastructure Projects worth ₹ 18,700 Crore

Launch of New Train Services and 100 EV Buses

Launch of Baraputra Sanmaan Scheme

Release of Vision Document Odisha Vision 2036 | 2047

Release of Booklet on Godabarish Mishra Adarsh Prathamik Vidyalaya

Felicitation of Lakhpati Didis

by

Shri Narendra Modi
Prime Minister

20 June 2025 | 4:00 PM | Janata Maidan, Bhubaneswar, Odisha

In the August Presence of

Dr. Hari Babu Kambhampati
Governor of Odisha

Shri Mohan Charan Majhi
Chief Minister, Odisha

Shri Dharmendra Pradhan
Union Minister of Education

Shri Jual Oram
Union Minister of Tribal Affairs

Shri Ashwini Vaishnaw
Union Minister of Railways, I&B, Electronics & Information Technology

Shri Kanak Vardhan Singh Deo
Deputy Chief Minister, Odisha

Smt. Pravati Parida
Deputy Chief Minister, Odisha

Ministers of State Government | Members of Parliament | Members of Odisha Legislative Assembly

OIPR-15001/13/07714/2526

DADLS-34

Live on DD News and DD Odia | YouTube: @DD Odia News Official/@DD Odia

Information & Public Relations Department, Government of Odisha

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
CALL: Bengaluru: 98455 29981 • 080-22071826
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 • 2417580
Hubballi: 0836-2338600 • 2335700

EDUCATIONAL

GENERAL

ATTENTION!! CLASS 10th, 11th & 12th STUDENTS

CLAT
(COMMON LAW ADMISSION TEST)
5 YEARS LAW
FROM NATIONAL LAW UNIVERSITIES

PREPARE FOR
CLAT 2026-27
ADMISSIONS OPEN
JAI KUMAR AIR CLAT 2024
LPT CLASS ROOM STUDENT (ID: 30574762)
LAW PREP Tutorial
CLAT Prep at it's Best!
OUR BENGALURU CENTERS
JAYANAGAR VIJAYANAGAR MALLESHWARAM
• FOUNDATION BATCH 2 Years Program For 10th Pass Students
• TARGET BATCH 1 Year Program For 11th Pass Students
• DROPPER'S BATCH 1 Year Program For 12th Pass Students
Ph.: +91 97423 76459
JODHPUR | JAIPUR | PATNA | BHOPAL | LUCKNOW | PRAYAGRAJ | DEHRADUN
MUZAFFARPUR | RANCHI | BENGALURU | DELHI | JABALPUR | KANPUR | GURGAON

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, JAYAKUMAR Gangadharan, s/o: Gangadharam Kunjuni Nair, r/o: G1237, Brigade Northridge Sy. No 108/2 Kogilu Village, Yelahanka Hobli, Bangalore–560064. Have Changed My Name To Jayakumar Gangadharan Menon. Affidavit Date On 18/06/25

I, SOLADHRA PAYALBEN DILIPBHAI, W/o. Soladhra Dilipbhai Pravinbhai R/at # 11, NRI Layout, Bangalore 43 have changed my name from BHALANI PAYAL PARSOTAM, BHALANI PAYAL PARSOTAMBHAI to SOLADHRA PAYALBEN DILIPBHAI for all my future purposes by affidavit 19–06–2025 sworn before notary Y.R.Chandrashekar.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

We, Pragati Glyoxal (P) Ltd, having a Manufacturing Unit and Sales Point at 162(P) 2 Cross Belagola Ind. Area, Metagalli, Mysore, intend to manufacture and sell 100% Water Soluble NPK Fertilizers as per order no 2900[E] dated 24 Oct 2015 issued by the Dept. Of Agriculture and Cooperation, Min. Of Agriculture, Govt. Of India.

PERSONAL

CHANGE OF NAME

I, MOHAMMED Saifuddin, S/o S.Subramani, R/a New No 1/14, Old No 1A/2, Assayee Road, 1st Cross, Opp to Bengali Association, Sivan Chetty Garden Post, Bengaluru-560042 have changed my name to Vijaya Kumar.S vide affidavit dt: 12.06.2025 sworn before Notary A.R.Muneer Ahmed, B'luru

I, Manoj Singumahanti S/O Sreehari R/O A 007 Sankalp Cheery Blossom Apartment, Edga Road, Opp Mayura Bekary Road, Varthur, Bengaluru, Karnataka-560087, Have Changed The Name Of My Minor Son Namely Sai Hrithik Singumahanti Alias Singumahanti Sai Hrithik (Aged 10 Years) And He Shall Hereafter Be Known As Hrithik Singumahanti For All Future Purposes.

TENDERS

NATIONAL E-GOVERNANCE Services Ltd, is inviting Tenders for Providing IT resources for Maintenance and Support of the existing IU Software, Design, Development, Installation, Integration and Configuration of additional features and functionalities. For details please visit: https://nesl.co.in/tenders/

GOVERNMENT OF MAHARASHTRA

Public Works Division Nanded

E-TENDER NOTICE NO. (05) FOR 2025-26

Online Tender (e-tender) in B-1 form for the in Nanded District total 15 works are invited by the Executive Engineer, Public Works Division Nanded, Dist Nanded (Phone No.02462-253711) on Government of Maharashtra Electronic Tender Management System, from the registered contractor in appropriate class of Public works Department of Maharashtra State. The details can be viewed and downloaded online directly from the Government of Maharashtra e-tender portal **https://mahatenders.gov.in/** on sub portal **www.mahapwd.gov.in** as under.

Note: 1) Details of the tender documents are available on e-tendering **https://mahatenders.gov.in/** and **www.mahapwd.gov.in** website of the Government of Maharashtra.
2) If there are any changes in the tender notice, then the information will be display on the website.
3) Executive Engineer, Public Works Division Nanded, Dist Nanded has reserved the right to accept or reject tenders.

Sd/-
Executive Engineer
Public Works Division Nanded

DGIPR/2025-2026/1237

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)

NOTIFICATION

Bengaluru, 11th June 2025

S.O. 2550(E).-In exercise of the powers conferred by sub-Section (1) of Section 20E of the Railway Act, 1989 (24 of 1989), the central govt, after satisfied with the report of Assistant Commissioner/Oharwad submitted vide his Letter No. LAQ CR/120/2024-25 dated 16.05.2025 hereby declares that the lands describe and shown in the following schedule and notified under S.O. 886(E) dated 19.02.2025 issued under sub-section (1) of Section 20A of chapter IVA of Railway Act, 1989 amended in 2008, should be acquired for executing the Special Railway Project namely **"Construction of 2 lane ROB in lieu of LC No. 18 at Navalgund Road - Annigeri @ Ch: 34/700-800 (Annigere Village)"** in the State of Karnataka.

SCHEDULE

Sl. No.	Name of the Village	Survey No.	Part	Area in Hectare
1.	Annigere	1097	15	0.0154
2.	Annigere	1097	3 PAIKI	0.0068
3.	Annigere	1096	12	0.0094
4.	Annigere	1096	11	0.0175
5.	Annigere	1096	1 PAIKI	0.0071
6.	Annigere	1096	14	0.0004
7.	Annigere	1096	07	0.0211
8.	Annigere	1096	1 PAIKI	0.0227
9.	Annigere	1096	1 PAIKI	0.0080
10.	Annigere	1096	13	0.0045
11.	Annigere	1096	1 PAIKI	0.0200
12.	Annigere	1096	2	0.0625
13.	Annigere	1096	8	0.2476
14.	Annigere	1078	1	0.0691
15.	Annigere	1080	2A + 2B/Plot No. 58	0.0005
16.	Annigere	1080	2A + 2B/Plot No. 59	0.0043
17.	Annigere	1080	2A + 2B/Plot No.101	0.0115
18.	Annigere	1080	2A + 2B/Plot No. 102	0.0135
19.	Annigere	1080	2A + 2B/Plot No. 143	0.0103
20.	Annigere	1081	B	0.0271
21	Annigere	1081	A	0.0096
			Total	**0.5889**

No. W.271 /CN/BNC/2025-26/Land SRP/1727

(Yogananda Babu Yagani)
Deputy Chief Engineer / General
Bengaluru Cantonment, South Western Railway

PUB/198/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY

E-Tender Notice No: 48F_OFC_and_6quad_Cable Date: 12.06.2025

The undersigned, on behalf of the President of India, Invites E-Tenders for the following work:

Description of work	Approx. Value
Provision of 48F OFC and 6 Quad cable based communication system in Thimmarajanahalli - Tavarekere, Chitradurga - Bharmasagar (26.05 Kms), Chikkamagalur - Hadihalli (9.01 Kms) and Marikuppam - Dravida University (5.7 Kms) section and supply & installation of OFC equipment for SSP/SP/TSS in Tumakuru - Davangere (TK-DVG) section of South Western Railway.	Rs. 9,99,23,432.83

Last date for submission of bids: **Upto 15:00 Hrs. on 11.07.2025**

For details log on: www.ireps.gov.in

Dy. Chief Signal & Telecom Engineer/Construction/ Bengaluru Cantonment

PUB/201/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

Download the UTS Mobile App from Google Play Store for ease of booking of unreserved tickets

South Western Railway - SWR | SWRRLY | SWRRLY

VIJAYANAGARA SRI KRISHNADEVARAYA UNIVERSITY, BALLARI

Jnanasagara Campus, Vinayakanagara, Cantonment, Ballari-583105, Karnataka State.

NO. VSKUB/CEMARF/KMERC/Tender/2025-26/405
Date:13-06-2025

Brief Tender Notification
(Through e-procurement only) Call-2

Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University invites Tenderfrom eligible Tenderers forSupply and Installation of Equipments to Center of Excellence for Multidisciplinary Advanced Research Facility (CEMARF) for Upgradation of Sri Krishnadevaraya University , BallariRs.1,07,20,278/-(including GST). The detail notification regarding the subject enquiry in the e-procurement process can be obtained by login on the website kppp.karnataka.gov.in. The other details can be collected from Dr.K.S. Lokesh(ph: 9035500208) during office timings.

Sd/- Registrar, Vijayanagara Sri Krishnadevaraya University Ballari-583105.

DIPR/Ballari/188/KSMCA/2025-26

Maharashtra Jeevan Pradhikaran Division Yavatmal

e-Tender Notice No. 05 of 2025-26

MJP invites e-Tender notice for the work of **M & R to Yavatmal Water Supply Scheme Tq.&Dist. Yavatmal GODHANI OFFICE MBR Zone No.1** in the State of Maharashtra Valued at **Rs.1,16,08,891/-** The e-Tender details are available on **www.mahatenders.gov.in** form dated **20.06.2025.**

All relevant dates will be as per the tender published in web portal **www.mahatenders.gov.in**

Sd/-
(P.A. Vyawahare)
Executive Engineer
MJP Division Yavatmal

DGIPR/2025-2026/1241

GULBARGA ELECTRICITY SUPPLY COMPANY LIMITED

(Wholly owned government of Karnataka)
CIN Number: U04010KA2002SGC030436

No. GESCOM/CEE(O)/SEE/EEE/(MRT-LDC)/AEE-1/F-3214/2025-26/19152-57 Date: 18-06-2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (KPP PORTAL MODE ONLY)

Indent No.GESCOM/2025-26/IND0118 : Supply and Commissioning of Three numbers (03) of Fully Automatic Single Phase Smart Meter Test Benches in MT Lab Kalaburagi, Ballari & Raichur and Two numbers (02) of Fully Automatic Three Phase Smart Meter Test Benches in MT Lab Kalaburagi & Ballari as per tender Technical Specifications.
Tender Amount: 956.99 Lakhs
Dates: Bid documents available at KPPP Portal: on or after **20.06.2025,** Last Date for Bid submission, Opening of Technical Bid and opening of price Bid: As per KPP Portal
Bidder Qualifying Requirements: As per tender documents (IFB): For additional information Contact: Superintending Engineer El., MRT-LDC, Corporate Office, GESCOM, Kalaburagi-585102. Mobile: 9448359002. Web Site Address: www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in. For information about the KPP portal, contact the helpline at **+91-8046010000/8068948777** or e-mail address: **support@eprochelpdesk.com**

Sd/- Chief Engineer Electy, (operations), GESCOM, Corporate Office, Kalaburagi

DIPR/Kalaburagi/222/KSMC&A/2025-26

HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE DEPARTMENT

ENGINEERING WING

Office of the Chief Engineer, Arogya Soudha, 3rd Floor, Leprosy Hospital Premises, 1st Cross, Magadi Road, Bengaluru-560 023 Telephone No.: 080-29557023 E-mail:**cekhsdrp@gmail.com**

No:HFWD/EW/CE/TA-2/AE-4 & 8/TND /2025-26/930 Date:18.06.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION

The Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru invites tender from eligible contractors registered in KPWD in two Cover tender document system through KPP Portal for the following work.

Sl. No.	Description of works	Amount put to Tender (Rs. In Lakhs)	EMD (Rs. In Lakhs)	Stipulated period for Completion (including monsoon)
1	Construction of Medical interns Hostel Building (S.F and TF (30+20 Rooms) over existing building for MBBS Students in the premises of BIMS at Belagavi, Belagavi District	657.00	9.90	11 Months
2	**1)** Construction of Health and Wellness Center at Navadagi in Muddebihal Taluk, Vijayapura District & **2)** Construction of Health and Wellness Center at Yarazari in Muddebihal Taluk, Vijayapura District (Call-2)	111.00	2.00	4 Months

Calendar of Events: Sl.No. (1) Last date for receipt of tenders:**18.07.2025 up to 16.00 hrs.** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **19.07.2025 at 16.30 hrs. Sl.No. (2)** Last date for receipt of tenders: **03.07.2025 up to 16.00 hrs.** Date of Opening of Tenders (Technical Bids): **04.07.2025 at 16.30 hrs.**
The tender details can be downloaded from the KPP Portal Platform **(www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in).** Tenders shall be submitted electronically at **www.kppp.karnataka.gov.in** and Tender Processing Fee shall also be paid electronically. Interested eligible contractors shall register on the KPP Portal Platform to participate in this tender.

NOTE: 1. All the rights are reserved by the undersigned for postponement or cancellation of entire tender process, rejection of bids /individual bid etc., without assigning any reason. 2. Henceforth, any changes in the schedule/contents will not be published through newspapers and further changes will be updated only on Karnataka Public Procurement Portal Platform.

Sd/- Chief Engineer, H&FWD, Engineering Wing, Bengaluru

DIRECTORATE OF HEALTH & FAMILY WELFARE SERVICES

Arogya Soudha, 6th Floor, Magadi Road, Bengaluru - 560 023

No.DD/EMS/ Expert Hiring/e-1786200/2025-26 Date: 19-06-2025

APPLICATION ARE INVITED FOR VARIOUS POST

Health and Family Welfare Services invites eligible application for various post. The Post are temporary and purely on contract basis for the period of One Year. Application should be submit through e-mail id **108ccckarnataka@gmail.com** and to Deputy Director, Emergency Medical Service, Health and Family Welfare Services, 108 Call Center, STDC Housing Board Colony, Basaweswarnagar Entrance, Opp. to Govt. Unani Medical College, GMS Compound, Magadi Road, BANGALORE 560079 on or before **26-06-2025, 5:30 PM** by personally / by post.

Sl. No.	Designation	No.of Post	Required Qualification	Required Experience
1	Advisor (Training & Protocol Development)	01	• B.Sc. Paramedic or equivalent (3 years Emergency Paramedic Course) after graduation & Advance Paramedic / Advanced Pre hospital care course. • Two years of Advanced Clinical Educators training to teach paramedics (Preferably from international universities). • Certification in disaster management training	• Minimum 15 years of experience including 5+ years of international experience both clinical and leadership experience. • 10+ years of teaching experience in life support trainings including EMS and disaster management trainings. • Experience in developing EMS protocols, Mass gathering events management, assessor Ambulance and Quality improvement experience. • International certifications/ licenses in EMS.
2	Fleet Manager	01	BE in Automobile Engineering	Min 5 years in Fleet Management of a minimum of 500 Vehicles
3	IT Infrastructure	01	BE Information Technology	Minimum 5 years' experience in IT industry, Emergency Response Service Call Centre experience desirable.
4	Operation Manager	01	MBA HR/ Marketing/ Finance	Minimum 15 years over all experience in Government sector. Preferable 7 years' experience in Emergency Response Service.
5	Application Support Manager	01	BE in Computer Science, IT & Telecommunications / MCA	Minimum 5-years' experience as IT Support for ERS Call Centre.
6	MIS Data Manager	01	M.Sc in Mathematics / MA in Economics/MCA/ BE in Computer Science	Minimum 5-years' experience in handling MIS data
7	Legal Consultant	01	Any Degree with LLB	Minimum 10 years legal practice related to Labour grievances and corporate affairs.
8	Procurement Manager	01	BE in Bio Medical/ Any Post Graduation degree	Minimum of 5-years' experience in Logistics Management of Emergency Medical Service.
9	Grievance Redressal Manager	01	MSW	Minimum of 5-years' experience in Grievance Redressal in Emergency Medical Services.
10	Human Resource Manager	01	MBA with HR Specialization	Minimum 10 years in any Government Project / Corporate Sector handling HR
11	Finance Manager	01	MBA Finance / CA	Minimum 10-years in any Government Project / Corporate Sector handling Finance
12	Programme Assistant	01	Any Graduate/Diploma in Secretarial Practice	Minimum 5-years in any Government Project.

Note: 1) For any Queries Contact: 080-23280161 during office hours only. **2)** The undersigned reserve the right to reject any or all the application and cancel the notification at any stage of recruitment without assigning any reason. **3)** Full time course is recommended and course must be completed from the recognized University. **4)** Candidates shall submit CV,self- attested copies of Marks Cards, Experience Certificate, other relevant copies, and latest passport size photo. **5)** Only shortlisted candidates will get the further communication and the rest will be treated as not selected.

Sd/-
Deputy Director (EMS)

DIPR/CP/1349/SA/2025-26

KARNATAKA URBAN WATER SUPPLY & DRAINAGE BOARD

O/o The Chief Engineer, KUWS&D Board, Mysuru zonal office, Jalabhavan, #P-4, 10th Main, 3rd Cross, 3rd Floor, Saraswathipuram, Mysuru-570009. Ph no: 0821-2545894, Email: kwbcemys2014@gmail.com

IFT no: 375/2025-26 Date: 18.06.2025

TENDER NOTIFICATION (Through E-Procurement Portal Only)

The tender for the work of "Providing 3rd Stage Water Supply Scheme to Chamarajanagar City from Cauvery River as source near Malangi village including Operation & Maintenance for a period of 5 years through design, build, operation and transfer (DBOT) mode (Lumpsum Tender - No Variation)" amounting to **₹ 110.25 Crores (Excluding GST)** has been invited vide Karnataka Public Procurement Portal indent No: **KUWSDB/2025-26/WS/WORK_INDENT348.** Further details may be obtained through Karnataka Public Procurement Portal website **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.**

Sd/- Chief Engineer,
KUWS & D Board, Mysuru.

DIPR/MYSORE/481/SSC/2025-26

MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS

(SOUTH WESTERN RAILWAY CONSTRUCTION ORGANISATION)

NOTIFICATION

CORRIGENDUM TO THE NOTIFICATION issued vide S. O. 2296(E) dated 21-05-2025

S.O.2556(E).--In exercise of the powers conferred by clause 37(A) of Section 2 of the Railways Act, 1989 (Act no. 24 of 1989) the Central Government hereby notifies that the project, mentioned in the table below as **"Special Railway Project"** in the State of Karnataka for providing National Infrastructure for a Public Purpose with effect from date of publication of the notification in the Official Gazette.

Sl. No.	Name of the Village	Village	Taluk	District
1.	Sravanur, Provision of new crossing station at Sravanur at km. 75/345 between Mandagere & Holenarsipura stations on Mysore - Hassan line.	Sravanur & Bantarathalulu	Holenarsipura	Hassan
2.	Chamarajanagar Station Yard - Re-modelling with two additional loop lines, watering and PFTR facilities.	-	Chamarajanagar	Chamarajanagar
3.	Kavalande, New crossing station at Kavalande at km. 39/400 between Nanjangud and Chamarajanagara.	Dodda Kavalande	Nanjangud	Mysore

No. W.271/CN/BNC/2025-26/Land SRP/1727

(Yogananda Babu Yagani)
Deputy Chief Engineer / General
Bengaluru Cantonment, South Western Railway

PUB/199/AAMO/PRB/SWR/2025-26

GOVT OF INDIA
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE
EX-SERVICEMEN CONTRIBUTORY HEALTH SCHEME
STATION HQ (ECHS CELL) BENGALORE,
TELE NO: 080-25322873 email:echscellbangalore@gmail.com

EMPLOYMENT NOTICE

1. ECHS invites application to engage following **Medical, Para Medical & Non Medical Staff** on contractual basis in ECHS polyclinics located at Madikeri, Bangalore (MEG), Mangalore, Shimoga, Virajpet & Whitefield for a **period of one year renewable for additional period of one year/ till attaining the maximun age subjcet to performance of candidates/other conditions according to the criteria as mentioned against each post.**

Category	Basic Qualification and Work experience	Name of Polyclinic: Madikeri	Bangalore (MEG)	Mangalore	Shimoga	Virajpete	Bangalore Whitefield	No of Vac	Fixed Remuneration	Reserved for ESM and age
OIC	Graduate, Minimum 05 years work experience in Health care institution or Managerial Positions	-	01	-	-	01	-	02	75,000/-	100% 63 Yrs
Med Spl	MD/MS in General Medicine, Minimum 05 years in Specialty after Post Graduation	-	01	-	-	-	-	01	1,00,000/-	60% 68 Yrs
Medical Officer	MBBS, Minimum 05 years after intership perferable addl qualification in medicine / Surgery	02	03	02	01	01	-	09	75,000/-	60% 66 Yrs
Dental Officer	BDS, Minimum 05 years work experience	-	01	-	-	-	-	01	75,000/-	60% 63 Yrs
Lad Assistant	DMLT/Class I Lab Tech Course (ESM), Minimum 05 years work experience in lab	01	-	01	-	-	-	02	28,100/-	70% 56 Yrs
Lab Tech	Bsc (MLT)/DTL T, Minimum 03 years Experience as Lab Assistant in Medical Lab	-	-	01	01	01	-	03	28,100/-	
Pharmacist	B Pharmacy / Diploma in Pharmacy and registered as Pharmacist under the Pharmacy Act 1948, Minimun 03 years Work Experience	01	-	01	01	-	01	04	28,100/-	
Nursing Asst	GNM Diploma/Class I NAC (ESM) & Minimum 05 years experience	01	01	-	-	-	-	02	28,100/-	
Dental Hygienist	Diploma in DH/Class I DH/DORA Course (ESM), Minimum 05 years experience in Dental Laboratory	01	-	01	01	01	-	04	28,100/-	
Clerk	Graduate/Class I Class-I CIK trade (ESM), Computer Qualifications, Minimum 5 years experience	-	-	01	01	-	-	02	22,500/-	70% 53 Yrs
Driver	Class 8th/Class I MT Driver (ESM) Possession Civil driving Licence, Minimum 05 years experience as driver	-	-	01	-	01	-	02	19,700/-	
Female Attendant	Literate, Minimum 05 years experience in Civil/Army Health institution	01	01	-	01	01	-	04	16,800/-	
Chowkidar	Class 8th or GD Trade (ESM)	01	01	01	01	-	-	04	16,800/-	
Peon	Class 8th or GD Trade (ESM) & Minimum 5 years service	01	01	01	01	01	01	06	16,800/-	
Safaiwala	Literate & Minimum 05 years service	01	-	01	01	01	-	04	16,800/-	

2. **For Terms & Conditions, Application form & Remuneration:** Kindly contact with concerned ECHS Polyclinic for the same/ see website **www.echs.gov.in** For additonal details contact Station cell (ECHS Cell) Bangalore **Tele No 080-25322873 & email ID: echscellbangalore@gmail.com, Approach ECHS Polyclinic concerned for details if required.** Perference will be given to the Ex-servicemen. **Priority** will be accorded to **Veer Naris/Widows of ESM** within the ambit of Govt instructions.
3. **Last date for receipt of application as per format is 16 July 2025.** Application as per requisite format along with self-attested photocopies of testimonals in support of Educational Qualifications and Work Experiences will be submitted to OIC ECHS Cell, Station Cell, Cubbon Road Bangalore-560001 by **16 July 2025** (1400h). Any **application received after 16 July 2025 (1400h) will not be accepted.**
4. **Interview Date, Timing & Venue,** Only **shortlisted Candidates will be called for Interview** at ECHS Cell, Station Cell, Cubbon Road Bangalore. Interviews will be **held 3rd week of July 2025** at Satation Cell, Cubbon Road Bangalore **between 0900h to 1500h.** Candidates must **bring all the original certificate/mark sheets/degree of 10th/ Matric, 10+2 & Graduation/Post Graduation/Diploma/Course , work experience, discharge book PPO,** sevice records and two PP size color photograph at the time of interview. No TA/DA claim is admissible.

BRUHAT BENGALURU MAHANAGARA PALIKE

Office of the Deputy Conservator of Forests, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike, N.R. Square, Annex Building-3, Bengaluru - 560002.

No: DCF/PR/570/2025-26 **Date: 19-06-2025**

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to bring to the notice of the Citizens of Bengaluru that the **Executive Engineer BWSSB, (WWM-N) H & A - V - I** has stated that **General Manager, SEMU, KRIDE** has requested to divert the BWSSB Utility by 2 Mtrs away from the adjacent road median at ORR, Hebbal as the existing 1.8 m dia BWSSB Sewer line in obstructing the approved viaduct alignment of BSRP. Hence the EE, BWSSB has submitted an application to the undersigned for removal of trees standing along the **ORR, Hebbal Bengaluru for Shifting / Diversion of 1.8 m diameter Sewer Line of length 415 m at Hebbal (between BSRP Pier No. 21 to Pier No. 33)**. The details are given below:

Name of the Project	Diversion / Shifting of 1.8 m diameter Sewer Line of length 415 m at Hebbal (between BSRP Pier No.21 to Pier No.33)			
Name of the Agency	BWSSB, (WWM-N) H & A - V - I, Bengaluru			
Purpose for Removal of Trees	The trees are coming within the Project for Diversion / Shifting of 1.8 m diameter Sewer Line of length 415 m at Hebbal (between BSRP Pier No. 21 to Pier No. 33).			
Description of the area with clear demarcation of boundaries or with GPS coordinates	**Boundary**	**Latitude (N)**	**Longitude (E)**	**Location**
	1	13.044.115	77.583.491	ORR Road, Hebbal, Parallel to Railway Track between BSRP Pier No. 21 to Pier No. 33, Bengaluru
	2	13.44.599	77.582.320	
	3	13.044.622	77.582.323	
	4	13.044.190	77.583.536	
	5	13.044.115	77.583.491	
	6	13.044.599	77.582.809	
	7	13.044.622	77.582.823	
	8	13.044.169	77.583.536	
Enumeration of Trees Total No. of Trees Standing in the Project Area	43 Nos. (Annexure-1)		*Description of Trees, Species, Location, Area, etc., are uploaded in the website of BBMP for information of all* ***(www.bbmp.gov.in)***	
Mode of Communication of Comments * *(Public can send their comments either by E-mail / Post / Hand)*	**Address: a)** The Deputy Conservator of Forests & Tree Officer, BBMP, N.R. Square, Bengaluru - 560002. E-mail ID: **dcfbbmp12@gmail.com** **b)** The EE, BWSSB, Bengaluru. E-mail ID: **eewwm3@bwssb.gov.in #** # A copy of the comments communicated directly to EE, BWSSB, should also be marked to the Tree-Officer / DCF, BBMP.			
Deadline for filing Objections	Ten (10) days from the date of publication of this Notification in Newspaper *** Objections / Comments / Suggestions should be relevant and specific to the project.**			

In view of the above, the suggestions / objections / comments are invited from citizens under Section 8 (3) (vii) of the Karnataka Preservation of Tree Act, 1976.

Sd/- Tree Officer & Deputy Conservator of Forests, BBMP, Bengaluru.

Law planned for crowd control at events, venues of mass gathering

This follows backlash over the June 4 stampede deaths; Bill proposes to auction property of event planner for relief denial

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

After backlash over the stampede that claimed the lives of 11 cricket fans outside Bengaluru's M. Chinnaswamy Stadium on June 4, the State government has proposed to bring in a new law for crowd control at events and venues of mass gathering.

The draft of the Bill said that the event planner is responsible for paying the compensation to the person injured and to the family member in case of a death.

It proposes that the event planner's property will be auctioned by the government in case of non-payment of the compensation. A draft of the Karnataka Crowd Control (Managing Crowd at Events and Venues of Mass Gathering) Bill, 2025, was discussed in the State Cabinet meeting on Thursday. The draft Bill says, "It is expedient to effectively manage and control crowds at sponsored events and venues of mass gathering pertaining to political rally, jatra, conference etc. in the State." The content of the Bill is not finalised so far.

Large turnout: The crowd gathered in front of the Vidhana Soudha during the Royal Challengers Bengaluru's felicitation ceremony on June 4. K. MURALI KUMAR

Draft Bills discussed by Cabinet

- Karnataka Crowd Control (Managing Crowd at Events and Venues of Mass Gathering) Bill, 2025
- Karnataka Rohit Vemula Bill, 2025
- Karnataka Misinformation, Fake News Prohibition Bill, 2025
- Karnataka Hate Speech and Crime Prevention Bill, 2025

Exempted

However, the draft Bill has proposed to exclude 'jatra', 'rathotsava', 'pallakki utsava', 'teppada teru', 'urs', and other religious events pertaining to any religion, caste or creed.

It said that the organiser of the event has to apply to the jurisdictional police station with the details of the approximate number of participants. The jurisdictional police station might change the date, time or venue by giving the reasons, it said. In case of violation of the law, the Bill said the event planner would be punished with imprisonment for a term which would be extended to three years or with a fine of up to ₹5 lakh or both.

Offences of event planners would be not seeking prior permission of the jurisdictional police, death or injury of participants, and stampede at the event. Aiding, abetting or other assistance for committing a crime at an event or venue, too, would be punished, the draft Bill said.

The event planner is responsible to pay the compensation to the person who is severely injured in the event, mass gathering pertaining to political rally, jatra, conference etc. or compensation to the family member of the deceased, it said.

The draft Bill proposed that if the event planner does not pay compensation, the government may collect the amount as arrears of land revenue. The event planner's property can be auctioned by the government.

The next Cabinet meeting would take a decision on this Bill and other Bills discussed, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil told reporters.

Health insurance cleared for three lakh contract, outsourced employees

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Cabinet on Thursday decided to bring three lakh outsourced and contract employees/workers in various departments and their dependents under the Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust for providing cashless health insurance of up to ₹5 lakh a year.

The employees have to contribute ₹100 a year as health insurance premium while the government bears the rest of the cost, according to Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil.

Suvarna Arogya Suraksha Trust was established in 2009 for providing cashless health insurance.

The Cabinet approved a ₹17.97-crore proposal for providing mobile health clinics in remote areas of the State. The clinics would enable residents of isolated or remote areas to access primary healthcare services.

H.K. Patil

A proposal to declare Mugli-Apsarakonda Marine Sanctuary as Karnataka's first marine sanctuary was also cleared. The sanctuary is spread over 5,959 hectares, near Honnavar in Uttara Kannada district. The proposal was approved by the Karnataka State Board for Wildlife a few years ago.

The Cabinet cleared the revised expenditure of ₹742 crore for the Anubhava Mantapa at Basavakalyan in Bidar district. Earlier, the project cost was ₹612 crore and the hike in GST from 12% to 18% on materials is said to be the reason for the cost escalation.

Employees have to contribute ₹100 a year as premium while the govt. will bear the rest of the cost

Processing unit

A ₹35.07-crore proposal of the Horticulture Department to set up a processing unit for mango and other horticultural crops on a PPP model on 28.3 acres at Yalavatti village in Hangal taluk of Haveri district was cleared by the Cabinet.

A proposal to rename the Basapura village in Hangal taluk of Haveri district was approved, and the village was renamed as Gerugudda Basapura, Mr. Patil added.

Housing quota for minorities up from 10 to 15%

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

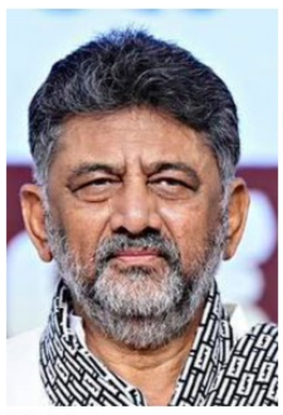
The State Cabinet on Thursday approved a proposal to increase the reservation from 10% to 15% for minorities under various State government housing schemes.

Briefing the Cabinet decisions after the meeting, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil said the move was based on the disproportionately high number of houseless individuals among minority communities in both urban and rural areas. Muslims form the bulk of the minority population in Karnataka.

Centre's guidelines

The Law Minister pointed out that the Centre had issued guidelines and it had already provided 15% allocation for minorities, and Karnataka was following it. Minority communities have long been requesting the hike in quota in the housing schemes, he added.

The decision will apply to all housing schemes implemented by different departments, including Housing and Urban Development, across the State.



D.K. Shivakumar

Decision criticised

While the Opposition BJP criticised it as "appeasement politics", Mr. Patil said the decision showed the government's commitment to equitable housing. "'Housing for all' is the key slogan of the Congress government, and we are committed to ensuring that every citizen has access to a home," he said. Many houseless individuals belong to downtrodden communities and minorities, and the decision to increase the quota reflects this ground reality, he said.

"The government is firm in its stand that all houseless individuals, regardless of their community, should be provided with housing," Mr. Patil said.

Defending the decision, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said, "There is a large urban population, and many minorities and poor people are part of it."

In contracts

Thursday's decision was followed by the government's proposal to extend quota benefits for Muslims in contract allocations, indicating a bigger push for minorities in welfare initiatives. The State legislature passed the Karnataka Transparency in Public Procurements (Amendment) Bill, 2025, aimed to provide a 4% quota for Muslims in government contracts of under ₹2 crore.

The BJP legislators had strongly opposed the Bill. After returning it twice, the Governor has forwarded the Bill for the President's assent.

BJP will consider legal fight: Pralhad Joshi

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Pralhad Joshi

Contending that the Cabinet's decision to increase reservation for minorities in housing allotments to 15% would affect reservation for SC/ST and OBCs besides the general quota, Union Minister Pralhad Joshi has announced that the BJP will consider taking up a legal fight against it.

Speaking to reporters here on Thursday, Mr. Joshi termed the decision "anti-constitutional", while arguing that there was no provisions as per Constitution to provide such reservation.

BJP State president B.Y. Vijayendra ridiculed the Congress government for announcing such measures to allegedly divert public attention from its scams, administrative failures, and the death of 11 persons in the stampede during the RCB's victory celebrations. Leader of the Opposition in the Assembly R. Ashok called it a "disgraceful act" done for the sake of votebank.

Dismissing the allegations, Deputy Chief Minister D.K. Shivakumar said the State is committed to ensuring that every citizen has access to a home. "Houses constructed by the Housing Department in urban areas are mostly vacant, and minorities are keen on moving into them. Hence, the reservation given to them is being increased. In some urban areas, nearly 30% of the minority community is poor. Also, the houses are sold at a price and not given away for free," he said.

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

IN MEMORIAM

In Loving Memory of

MRS. GEMINI ABRAHAM
Wife of Abraham Thomas Jeerakath
Forever in our hearts: Thomas, John, Abraham, Deepti, Tabitha, Dhruthi, Sherena, Chacko & the grandchildren.

DEATH

SAD DEMISE

DOB: 17.07.1957

DOD: 19.06.2025

Mrs.R.Prameela (Age:67)

DIAV TRUST (TIRUMALA),
SRI RANGANADHA NILAYAM (SRIRANGAM TRICHY)
AKHILA BHARATH TRUST (SHIRDI)

Funeral @ Besant Nagar Cremation @ 1.30pm

Deeply Mourned by

HUSBAND JEEVAN KUMAR
SON SRIHARI, DAUGHTER,
DAUGHTER IN LAW, SON IN LAW,
GRAND SONS, GRAND DAUGHTERS

Family & Friends, All Trustees & Staffs
From the Managment
No.17/1, Sai Nivas, 7th Main Road,
Raja Annamalaipuram Chennai 600028
90437 90007

Mango glut: CM asks Minister to hold talks with Centre on compensation

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The State Cabinet on Thursday discussed the financial crisis faced by mango growers following crash in prices in the market and Chief Minister Siddaramaiah asked Agriculture Minister N. Cheluvarayaswamy to hold talks with Union Minister for Agriculture Shivraj Singh Chouhan to seek compensation for growers.

Mango prices plummeted from ₹12,000 a quintal to ₹3,000 a quintal, the government said.

Briefing presspersons on the decisions taken at the Cabinet meeting, Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil said the Chief Minister had asked Mr. Cheluvarayaswamy to go to Delhi if necessary to seek compensation from the Centre or look at procurement of the crop by Central agencies such as NAFED and NCCF.

Visitors at the mango and jackfruit mela in Mysuru. Mango prices have plummeted from ₹12,000 a quintal to ₹3,000. FILE PHOTO

A few days ago, Mr. Siddaramaiah had appealed to the Centre to take urgent steps to help mango growers of the State as the fruit prices had dropped sharply this season.

In a letter to Mr. Chouhan, Mr Siddaramaiah, who will be in Delhi on Friday, requested the Centre to start a Price Deficiency Payment and Market Intervention Scheme and begin immediate procurement though Central agencies such as NAFED and NCCF to support farmers and stop further distress in rural areas.

Mango is one of Karnataka's major horticultural crops, cultivated over an area of 1.39 lakh hectares, with an estimated production of 8 to 10 lakh tonnes during the rabi season.

Now, Cabinet meeting at Nandi Hills on July 17

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The Congress government has now proposed to hold the State Cabinet meeting at Nandi Hills in Chickballapur district on July 17.

Law and Parliamentary Affairs Minister H.K. Patil told reporters that the venue of Thursday's Cabinet meeting was shifted from Nandi Hills to the Vidhana Soudha owing to the delay in the preparation of proposals to be announced by various departments for the Chickballapur and Kolar region. The Cabinet meeting would be held at Nandi Hills on July 17, he said.

MLAs and Ministers of the region had met Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and told him to hold the Cabinet meeting at Nandi Hills only if the government was ready with a financial package for the region, Mr. Patil said.

Unrest: KPCC panel submits interim report

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The panel set up by the Karnataka Pradesh Congress Committee (KPCC) to study the reasons for the communal unrest in the coastal districts and the solutions required to prevent it, submitted its interim report on Thursday to KPCC chief D.K. Shivakumar.

Nasir Hussain, MP and AICC general secretary, headed the panel.

The panel held discussions with a host of people and organisations on the issue.

Minister walks out of event in Kerala over Bharat Mata's image

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Kerala's General Education Minister V. Sivankutty walked out of an official function at the Raj Bhavan here on Thursday in protest against the display of an image of Bharat Mata associated with the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS).

The Raj Bhavan, in a statement, said the Minister's action was "a gross violation of protocol and a grave insult to the office of the Governor". Governor Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar said there is "no question of doing away with Bharat Mata".

After leaving the Kerala State Bharat Scouts and Guides Rajya Puraskar award function, Mr. Sivankutty said in a statement that the Governor should remember that patriotism meant upholding Constitutional values, protecting the dignity of every citizen, and preserving the diversity that defines the country.

'Pluralistic identity'

"It is essential to ensure that Indian nationalism is not founded on a single cultural image, but on the inclusive and democratic vision enshrined in our Constitution. The Governor should clarify whether the Sangh Parivar's Bharat Mata concept recognises the borders of the country... Our republic was born from a conscious decision to assert a pluralistic, federal and secular identity," he said.

Nilambur byelection: voter turnout likely to cross 75%

70.76% of the 2.32 lakh voters had exercised their franchise by 5 p.m., Election Commission said; even though polling was delayed in some booths due to faulty EVMs, the issue was rectified soon

Making it count: Voters standing in the queue outside a polling station at Velumbiyampadam in Nilambur. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
MALAPPURAM

More than 1.7 lakh voters reached polling booths to choose their Assembly representative in a byelection held in Nilambur, Kerala, on Thursday. At the close of the polling at 6 p.m., there were long queues of voters at several booths, waiting for their turn to exercise their franchise.

The fiercely contested byelection, which saw a quadrangular fight involving Left Democratic Front (LDF) candidate M. Swaraj, United Democratic Front's (UDF's) Aryadan Shoukath, Bharatiya Janata Party's (BJP's) Mohan George and Independent candidate P. V. Anvar, ended peacefully.

According to the Election Commission, 73.26% of the 2.32 lakh voters had exercised their franchise by 8 p.m. The final figures of voter turnout are likely to cross 75%. The polling percentage of the 2021 Assembly election in Nilambur was 75.20.

Polling began on a brisk note at 7 a.m. in 263 polling stations across Nilambur. Three polling booths were inside the forest: at Vaniyampuzha, Punchakolli and Nedumkayam, where tribespeople living in Nilambur forests voted.

While the first two hours registered 13.15% polling, it rose to 30.15% by 11 a.m., 46.73% by 1 p.m., 59.68% by 3 p.m., and 70.76% by 5 p.m.

Polling was delayed at some booths due to faulty electronic voting machines (EVMs), but the election officials resolved the issue by replacing the EVMs.

As many as 1,200 security personnel were deployed for the byelection. Enhanced security was provided for 14 critical booths, including the three stations in tribal areas. After the polling, voting machines were shifted to the strongroom at Mar Thoma Higher Secondary School, Chungathara, where the votes will be counted on Monday.

Mr. Swaraj voted at Government LP School, Mankuthu. Mr. Shoukath at Government LP School, Veetikuth, and Mr. George cast his vote at Mar Thoma Higher Secondary School, Chungathara. Mr. Anvar did not have a vote in Nilambur.

Mr. Swaraj and Mr. Shoukath, who are the frontrunners of the electoral battle, met and shared their camaraderie during their visits to polling booths. Talking to the presspersons later, both expressed confidence of victory. It was Mr. Anvar's resignation as an Independent MLA of the LDF following his disenchantment with the CPI(M) and Chief Minister Pinarayi Vijayan which necessitated the byelection in Nilambur. Mr. Anvar, who is currently All India Trinamool Congress State convener said he is confident that he would secure more than 75,000 votes.

RELATED REPORT
» NEWS PAGE

Dayanidhi Maran sends legal notice to Kalanithi

The Hindu Bureau
CHENNAI

DMK Member of Parliament Dayanidhi Maran has sent a legal notice to his brother Kalanithi Maran, Chairman, Sun TV Network, his wife Kavery Kalanithi, and six others, raising a dispute in share transactions that happened in 2003.

The notice pointed out that from the inception of Sun TV Network Ltd (earlier Sumangali Publications Pvt Ltd) till September 15, 2003, Mr. Kalanithi had served solely as an employee of the group, receiving a salary, and did not hold any shares.

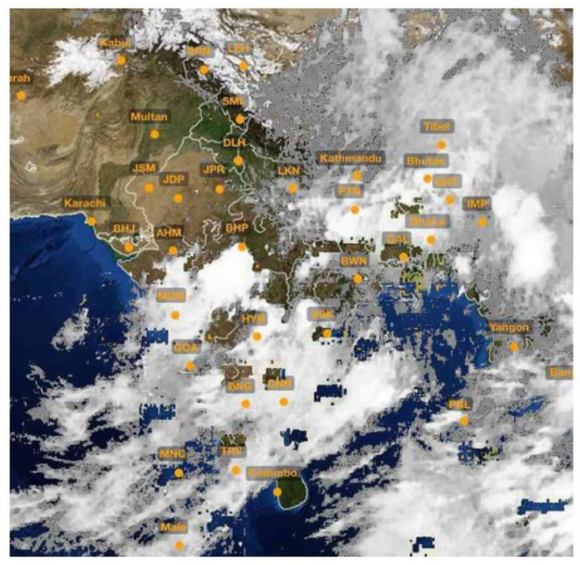
It alleged that, on September 15, 2003, Mr. Kalanithi allotted 60% of the shares of Sun TV "without any consultation or approval from the existing majority/promoter original shareholders and in collusion with other respondents, and became a majority shareholder with controlling interest."

This diluted the genuine promoters' shareholding from 50% to a mere 20% each.

Alleging discrepancies in further transactions, the legal notice called upon to restore the entire shareholding position of Sun TV Network and all other related companies to their original state as it stood on September 15, 2003, by reinstating the shares to the rightful owners, namely M.K. Dayalu (late M. Karunanidhi's wife) and the legal heirs of late S.N. Maran.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Friday: Heavy/very heavy rainfall likely at isolated places over Gujarat, Rajasthan, Haryana, Chandigarh, Delhi, Uttarakhand, Uttar Pradesh, Bihar, Arunachal Pradesh, Assam, Meghalaya, Nagaland, Manipur, Mizoram, Tripura, Odisha, Jharkhand, Chhattisgarh, Madhya Pradesh, Maharashtra and Konkan & Goa

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	5	31.5	26.0	Kozhikode	16	31.0	25.0
Ahmedabad	70	31.0	23.6	Kurnool	—	36.2	26.4
Aizawl	14	32.0	20.8	Lucknow	—	37.2	28.1
Allahabad	—	39.4	28.9	Madurai	—	40.2	26.4
Bengaluru	2	28.4	20.5	Mangaluru	11.8	30.0	24.5
Bhopal	—	30.0	25.0	Mumbai	60	29.9	25.6
Bhubaneswar	1.1	32.0	25.6	Mysuru	—	29.0	20.2
Chandigarh	0.1	36.9	27.5	New Delhi	—	36.4	27.2
Chennai	—	37.3	29.4	Patna	3	33.5	27.7
Coimbatore	—	30.6	23.0	Port Blair	80	27.4	24.0
Dehradun	0.7	34.5	24.6	Puducherry	—	37.4	27.4
Gangtok	10	19.7	18.5	Pune	29.6	27.3	24.5
Goa	5	32.0	26.5	Raipur	—	30.7	27.1
Guwahati	27	32.8	26.2	Ranchi	153	23.9	21.6
Hubballi	—	30.0	22.0	Shillong	7	20.6	18.3
Hyderabad	—	33.0	24.4	Shimla	—	27.4	20.0
Imphal	0.6	30.5	25.6	Srinagar	—	35.2	19.4
Jaipur	—	34.6	26.4	Thiruvananthapuram	5	31.1	24.8
Kochi	30	28.2	24.2	Tiruchi	—	38.1	26.6
Kohima	13	14.6	19.6	Vijayawada	—	37.2	28.4
Kolkata	13	29.4	23.6	Visakhapatnam	—	33.5	29.2

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	9	60	71	47	55	
Bengaluru	12	4	24	41	169	
Chennai	9	17	59	73	87	
Delhi	6	48	42	94	130	
Hyderabad	22	15	37	82	88	
Kolkata	10	48	34	38	40	
Lucknow	11	42	64	76	172	
Mumbai	53	16	47	18	60	
Pune	—	61	91	26	27	
Visakhapatnam	21	70	41	61	127	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Gurugram, Haryana recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 333 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Shillong, Meghalaya recorded a healthy AQI score of 10

Air Quality Code: Poor Moderate Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

INBRIEF

Tony Blair's institute to help A.P. in education sector

Andhra Pradesh's Minister for IT and Electronics and Human Resources Development, Nara Lokesh has met former British Prime Minister and founder of the Tony Blair Institute for Global Change (TBI), Tony Blair, in New Delhi on Thursday. As per an agreement, the TBI has sent a team that is enabling the State to implement reforms in higher education, and helping it in the establishment of a Global Institute for Good Governance. Mr. Blair and Mr. Lokesh took stock of the State's progress on those fronts.

Sabarimala ropeway project moves closer to reality

A long-pending plan to construct a ropeway for transporting goods from Pampa to the Sabarimala Sannidhanam has received a boost with the State Wildlife Board deciding to recommend the release of forestland for the project.

Official sources said the Chief Wildlife Warden of Kerala, who also serves as the Member Secretary of the State Wildlife Board, will forward the recommendation for the required permissions from the National Tiger Conservation Authority and the National Wildlife Board. The project has faced several delays due to objections from the Forest department.

Flight bound for Tirupati returns to Hyderabad

A SpiceJet flight bound for Tirupati was forced to return to Hyderabad on Thursday morning after pilots detected a technical issue involving the baggage compartment in the rear.

The cockpit warning light for the rear baggage door, an indicator that signals whether the door is securely shut, illuminated intermittently after take-off.

Flight SG 2696 turned back mid-air and landed, said authorities from Hyderabad airport.

Telangana CM and Irrigation Minister ask Centre to stall A.P.'s water diversion project

M. Rajeev
HYDERABAD

Chief Minister A. Revanth Reddy and Minister for Irrigation N. Uttam Kumar Reddy sought the intervention of the Union Jal Shakti Ministry in stalling the Godavari-Banakacherla project, proposed by Andhra Pradesh, which is detrimental to the interests of Telangana.

A. Revanth Reddy and N. Uttam Kumar Reddy with Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil in New Delhi on Thursday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

They requested Union Jal Shakti Minister C.R. Patil to reject the pre-feasibility report submitted by the Andhra Pradesh government on the project. The State was committed to raise the issue in all possible ways for an amicable resolution, they told Mr. Patil, adding that it would not desist to approach the Supreme Court if the Centre did not respond positively to its request.

Andhra Pradesh proposed the project in violation of the order of Godavari Water Disputes Tribunal (GWDT) 1980 and A.P. Reorganisation Act 2014, they said, expressing concern over the manner in which the Union Finance and Environment Ministries were handling the proposal of the project.

The Telangana Government has also sought a No Objection Certificate (NOC) from Union Jal Shakti Ministry and Andhra Pradesh, allowing it to utilise 1,000 tmc ft of Godavari and 500 tmc ft of Krishna water. The Chief Minister has urged C.R. Patil to ensure that the Centre gives its consent for the NOC allowing Telangana to utilise 1,500 tmc ft water as it would suffice to realise the goal of irrigating 1.5 crore acres of land.

AMMA general body meet to decide on new executive panel

The Hindu Bureau
KOCHI

A general body meeting of the Association of Malayalam Movie Artistes (AMMA) to be held here on June 22 may decide on whether the current ad hoc committee led by actor Mohanlal should be re-elected as the executive committee for the next three years.

The previous executive committee was disbanded in August 2024 in the wake of the allegations of sexual assault and misbehaviour raised against its members, including some office-bearers, following the release of the K. Hema Committee report. Mr. Mohanlal, who attended a recent meeting of the ad hoc committee, is learnt to have expressed his willingness to lead the executive committee if the rest of the ad hoc committee members are permitted to continue on the new executive committee.

Jayan Cherthala, member of the ad hoc panel, said the general body has the powers to take a call on whether the ad hoc committee should be re-elected as the next executive committee.

15 held in Telangana for circulating child sexual abuse material

The Hindu Bureau
HYDERABAD

A total of 15 habitual offenders involved in the digital circulation of child sexual abuse material (CSEAM) were arrested by the Telangana Cyber Security Bureau (TGCSB).

The arrests were made during a coordinated Statewide operation conducted on Wednesday by the Bureau's specialised Child Protection Unit, which has been monitoring such habitual offenders.

The arrested individuals were picked up from multiple districts including Hyderabad, Yadadri, Karimnagar, Warangal, Jagtial, and Jagadgirigutta.

All of them were linked to at least 57 cyber tipline complaints.

The operation resulted in 34 first information reports being registered under the IT Act and the Protection of Children from Sexual Offences (POCSO) Act, including 17 cases taken up by TGCSB's Cyber Crime Police Stations.

200 websites blocked

The CSEAM content recovered in the operation primarily involved foreign victims, with children aged between 6 and 14 years. Nearly 90% of the content pertained to girls.

TGCSB Director Shikha Goel said the Bureau had also blocked nearly 200 websites linked to CSEAM material as part of the operation.

The official added that action will be taken against social media companies.

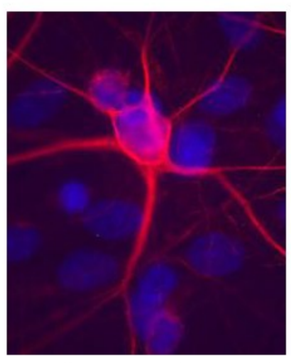
Newborn in Kerala being treated for spinal muscular atrophy before symptoms set in

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

In perhaps a first in the country, a newborn found carrying the SMN1 gene mutation for spinal muscular atrophy (SMA) through prenatal genetic screening is being administered presymptomatic treatment for SMA at the SAT Hospital here in Kerala, thus minimising the infant's potential for future neuron damage.

The infant, who is hardly three weeks old, is being administered presymptomatic treatment using Risdiplam, one of the rare disease-modifying drugs currently available for SMA, so that the infant will get the benefit of early initiation of treatment.

SMA refers to a group of hereditary diseases that affect motor neurons, which



SMA affects nerves that control muscles called motor neurons.

are the specialised nerve cells in the brain and spinal cord that control movement of the body as well as skeletal muscle activity. The disease is currently not curable, even though several treatments have been developed for SMA that preserve motor neurons and improve muscle function to extend lives.

In SMA, treatment early in life tends to provide more benefits. However, early diagnosis is fraught with many challenges. Most cases of SMA occur when the affected gene is passed down from the individual's parents.

Prenatal test helped

In this case, the mother is an SMA patient, and through pre-natal diagnostic tests, it was found that the foetus was carrying the gene mutation associated with SMA. Though termination of pregnancy was an option, the woman chose to have the baby.

"We do not normally get to diagnose SMA early before symptoms set in. Here, because of prenatal screening, we got a chance for early intervention and we thought we will try presymptomatic treatment, a protocol that is now being used in the West with very positive results," V.H. Shanker, who heads the Genetics Centre at SAT Hospital said.

Early treatment minimises motor neuron damage and maximises the potential for motor development.

Expensive drug

Health Minister Veena George said this was a rare opportunity for the State to potentially save at least one child from the debilitating disease.

The State government is already giving Risdiplam, which is prohibitively expensive, to some 100 SMA patients for free, under its KARE (Kerala Against Rare Diseases), the State's initiative to devise a comprehensive care strategy to prevent and manage rare diseases.

Cricket hub: In the aftermath of the June 4 stampede in which 11 people lost their lives, the Bengaluru police are keen on getting the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium shifted out of the central business district. The seating capacity of the stadium — 32,000 — has proven to be inadequate, given the demand for tickets during almost every match, says a police officer. K. MURALI KUMAR

Fighting for space in Bengaluru's core area

The tragic stampede outside the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium has brought the focus back on shifting the entities occupying large spaces in the city out. **K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj** listens to those who are for and against the idea

Following the death of 11 persons in a stampede outside the M. Chinnaswamy Stadium, located in the heart of Bengaluru, on June 4, a long-standing proposal to shift the cricket stadium to the city's outskirts has again gained currency. Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah, responding to a media query, has said the government will consider the proposal. This has also brought to the fore similar proposals to shift other entities like the Bangalore Turf Club (BTC), the Bangalore Golf Club (BGC), and the agricultural produce marketing committee (APMC) yard at Yeshwantpur out of the core city areas.

There have been two instances in Bengaluru when the government has shifted such establishments out of the core city areas. The APMC yard, which was operating out of N.T. Pet in the congested *Pete* area of the core city, was shifted to Yeshwantpur in the north-western part in the late 1980s, and the HAL airport was shut down for commercial passenger traffic in 2008 after a new airport was built about 40 km away near Devanahalli.

A file photo of the Bangalore Golf Club, located in the city centre, that is spread over 60 acres.

Inadequate seating

In the aftermath of the stampede, the city police are also keen on getting the stadium out of the central business district (CBD). "The seating capacity of the stadium – 32,000 – has proven to be inadequate, given the demand for tickets during almost every match. There are thousands of gatecrashers during every match. Our recent experience suggests that if there is a tragedy inside the stadium, evacuation will be a Herculean task. It is better if the stadium is shifted to the city's outskirts, where a larger facility can be built with adequate parking space," says a senior police officer.

The city police will likely recommend the same to the State government and the John Michael D'Cunha commission, which is tasked with recommending measures to ensure such incidents do not recur.

Sources in the government say that land has been earmarked for a sports stadium in the Dr. Shivaram Karanth Layout, being developed by the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) in the northern part of the city. Plans are also on to build a similar stadium at the now-proposed Bidadi Integrated Township project in the south-western part of the city as well.

Many efforts to shift

Meanwhile, around 300 shops selling perishable items such as onions, potatoes, garlic, and ginger at the Yeshwantpur APMC yard, spread over 85 acres, were recently given a June 1 deadline to shift to the Dasanapura yard near Nelamangala, north-west of Bengaluru. For over a decade now, the Karnataka government has been trying to shift the yard to Dasanapura to avoid lorry traffic in the city, but has repeatedly failed. This time, too, efforts have met with legal challenges, forcing the government to seemingly back off.

> However big a stadium we build, it will not be enough, seeing the crowds that gathered on June 4. What we need are new crowd management techniques.
>
> **S.T. RAMESH,** former DG&IGP

In the last week of May, the police gave a report to the government recommending the shifting of shops selling perishables at the Yeshwantpur yard to Dasanapura, citing parking issues for lorries leading to traffic chaos in the area.

Meanwhile, proposals to shift the turf club and the golf club to the city's outskirts are decades old. However, the police make a distinction between the case of the APMC yard and Chinnaswamy Stadium and that of the BTC and BGC: while the former two lead to traffic congestion and crowding, the latter do not.

Sources in one of the clubs say that successive governments have been eyeing the BTC and BGC land as they are unable to find large tracts of land in the CBD.

Relocating not the only solution

However, many, including urban planners, argue that relocating these establishments is not the only solution. As a global city, Bengaluru needs to have stadiums, museums, and other such heritage, sports, and entertainment facilities, apart from open spaces, in the city as well, urban planners argue. Most other cities also have stadiums in the core area, urban planners point out.

It has to be noted that even iconic cricket stadiums in other cities of the country like the Wankhede Stadium in Mumbai (seating capacity 33,100 and spread over 13 acres), the M.A. Chidambaram Stadium in Chennai (seating capacity 38,200 and spread over 41.9 acres), and Eden Gardens (seating capacity 68,000 and spread over 50 acres) are situated in the core areas. Except Eden Gardens, the seating capacities of other stadiums are comparable with that of the Chinnaswamy Stadium in Bengaluru.

An urban planner says, "Relocating stadiums, clubs, and all big venues to the peri-urban areas around the city is not going to solve everything. These areas are poorly connected by road and public transport networks. The need of the hour is for urban management to anticipate multiple crises."

Former Director-General and Inspector-General of Police of Karnataka S.T. Ramesh says that while shifting the stadium can be done, it will not solve the core issue. "However big a stadium we build, it will not be enough, seeing the crowds that gathered on June 4. What we need are new crowd management techniques," he argues.

Another urban planner argues that the APMC yard is a nerve centre serving all retail shops in Bengaluru, and pushing it out of the city, to an area not served well by public transport, will lead to disruption. "There are too many back-and-forth linkages between various areas of the city and the yard," he says.

Ravi Kumar of the Bangalore Potato and Onion Traders' Association says that it is not feasible for traders selling perishable goods to shift to Dasanapura. "There are no basic amenities there and no public transport facilities. Who will come there?" he asks. "Instead of shifting one group of traders to Dasanapura and retaining another at Yeshwantpur, let both yards function fully, trading all the 92 notified items. Customers will choose between the two yards according to their convenience," he says.

Shifting BTC and BGC

Urban planners also make a distinction between the stadium and APMC yard issue on one side, and the BTC and BGC issue on the other. The issue at the heart of relocating BTC and BGC is the need for land for public utilities in the core city, and not overcrowding. Since these large tracts of land only serve a small group of elites, the proposal to reclaim this land for larger public use by relocating these clubs is justified, many argue.

Both BGC and BTC are colonial institutions started in 1876 and 1920, respectively. While the BGC is spread over 60 acres and is estimated to have over 4,500 members, the BTC today occupies around 69 acres of land after losing a few acres to road widening and has 350 members. Both clubs hold significant land holdings in the core city, a stone's throw away from the Vidhana Soudha, but serve an exclusive set of members.

"We haven't been able to build a single new government office or create any public space for tourism in the core city. The main problem is land crunch. The BTC and BGC are on prime real estate that can be put to good public use if they are relocated," says a senior urban planner who has worked on multiple master plans for the Bengaluru region.

Efforts by successive governments to relocate the BTC and BGC have hit a wall. In 2010, when the government tried to reclaim the BTC land, allotted to the club by the erstwhile Princely State of Mysore in 2010, for a theme park, the matter went to the High Court of Karnataka, which ordered the shifting of the club to the city's outskirts in six months. The BTC challenged this in the Supreme Court and the case has been pending there for the past 15 years.

In January 2024, Mr. Siddaramaiah said he had suggested that the BTC shift to the Kunigal Stud Farm, the oldest stud farm in the country that can be traced back to the times of Tipu Sultan, 70 km away in the Tumakuru district. However, there has been resistance to this idea, both from the turf club and within the government itself. While there is a proposal to convert the stud farm into an integrated township championed by one section of the State government, sources say the BTC authorities argue that Kunigal is too far.

A Karnataka Legislative Council's Special House Committee, led by BJP member N. Ravi Kumar, had in 2024 suggested that the State government take over the land of both BTC and BGC and shift these clubs to Kunigal Stud Farm and Jakkur Aerodrome land, respectively. The State government had made a move to take over the BGC land in 2018 as well. The then Public Works Minister H.D. Revanna had threatened to take over the golf course land in view of many violations. It was suggested that the land be converted into a legislator's club. Earlier in the same year, Home Minister G. Parameshwara, who was holding the same charge then, had said the government would explore relocating the golf course after a ball landed at the Chief Minister's home office Krishna.

Cost and other factors

Sources say that the general body of the BTC has authorised the management committee to negotiate relocation with the State government and get back to it. The BTC has been, in principle, ready to relocate, but with riders, sources say. "To build a state-of-the-art turf club, we need anywhere between 100 and 150 acres of table-top flat land, which the government should allot us in a convenient place, and it requires nearly ₹250 crore, which the club doesn't have. With no assets and a hand-to-mouth existence at the club, raising a loan is also tough. We do not know how to foot the bill for relocation," a source in the BTC says.

Further, the BTC also wants to retain around 5.5 acres of land in the present location as an off-site betting premises where punters can place bets and see races on big screens. Without this facility in the core city, the club will lose revenue and become dysfunctional, as large crowds are unlikely to turn up at Kunigal or any other location outside the city, sources say.

Some members of the three sports clubs in the core city are learnt to have suggested that the government come up with an integrated sports city near the Kempegowda International Airport, where they can shift not only the BTC and the BGC but also the Chinnaswamy Stadium.

"Cricket, golf, and horse racing are all internationally recognised sports. There is ample land available near the airport and a sports city, integrating not only these three sporting facilities but also other sports, near the airport in Bengaluru will be a great addition to the city," one of the members of these sporting clubs argues.

How reclaimed land is used

A senior urban planner, who did not wish to be named, says that if any of these four installations are moved out of the core city, how the reclaimed land is put to use is key and public interest needs to be at the centre of it.

"When a similar situation arose in Mumbai with the mill land, architect Charles Correa suggested a one-third rule. One-third of the land could be commercially exploited by the mill owners, one-third reserved for public housing, and the rest for public open spaces. But this was not followed. Here, the land is not privately held, but by the government. We need to evolve a similar formula and ensure that all the land is not commercially exploited. At least parts of these lands, if reclaimed, need to be reserved for imaginative open public spaces and the rest can be used for public utilities," the urban planner says.

Move opposed: A file photo of the agricultural produce marketing committee yard at Yeshwantpur. The State government's efforts to shift it to the Dasanapura yard near Nelamangala have met with legal challenges.

Making a buzz Stills from a few Kannda short films that have garnered high praise. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Big splash

Kannada short films made by aspiring filmmakers are streaming on platforms owned by stars such as Rishab Shetty, Daali Dhananjaya, Puneeth Rajkumar, and more

Vivek MV
vivek.mv@thehindu.co.in

For the third consecutive year, the Kannada film industry is enduring a dull phase. Barring a few impressive attempts from newcomers (*Nimma Vasthugalige Neeve Javabdararu, Nodidavaru Enantare, Edagaiye Apaghatakke Karana),* Sandalwood hasn't produced enough quality content to pull audiences to theatres.

Robbed of the big-screen experience, movie lovers have turned to YouTube to watch films, albeit in a shorter format. The biggest positive amidst the dry period is the consistent flow of interesting short films from aspiring filmmakers. These youngsters haven't compromised on the quality of their projects, ensuring the concept and production are on par with any mainstream feature film. To their advantage, the movies have been backed by Kannada stars, who have released the shorts on their official channels.

Jaishankar Aryar's festival hit *Shivamma* (2022) – a beautiful rural satire on a woman's rollercoaster journey in a multi-level marketing business – was produced by Rishab Shetty. Now, the youngster has received the backing of the *Kantara* actor-director for his short *It Was Nice Meeting You.*

Breakup cycle

Post the widespread acclaim for *Shivamma,* Jai Shankar revived his short with sound mixing and music. *It Was Nice Meeting You,* starring Jaishankar and Ashwitha Hegde, is a realistic take on a couple's break-up cycle. It delves into the struggles of letting a loved one go.

"Some relationships don't work, and a separation is the best outcome for both individuals. I have tried to reflect the need for closure in relationships," says Jaishankar, who is overwhelmed by the response to the short. "People are calling it their story. Reels from my film have reached lakhs of people."

Tryst with AI

The urge to experiment drew Abhay to direct *Imagine,* a 15-minute short on the dangers of AI. Streaming on PRK Audio, a YouTube channel helmed by Ashwini Puneeth Rajkumar, producer, and wife of superstar Puneeth Rajkumar, the film has gained praise for its technical brilliance. "My DOP, Rahul Roy, and I wanted to create something with the blazar anamorphic lens, which is perhaps the most affordable anamorphic lens. We wanted to shoot a film in two days. I wrote a two-page script, and we shot the movie in four hours," reveals Abhay.

The short is a gripping one-night story of a youngster trying to break himself free from the control of AI. Apart from directing and starring in the film, Abhay has also written and edited *Imagine*. "I explored my cinematic abilities with the movie," he says.

Coming-of-age tale

Madhu Kalale worked in the direction team of the impressive crowd-funded college drama *Daredevil Musthafa* (2023), distributed by Dhananjaya. The actor has released Madhu's short, *Summer Love,* on his channel, Daali Pictures.

Madhu is a fan of love stories. "*Amruthavarshini* (1997) is one of my favourites. I also like the Mani Ratnam kind of romantic dramas," he says. *Summer Love* isn't a conventional love story involving the meet-cute moments of a young couple. The film is a boy's (played by a charming Aashith) coming-of-age tale as he struggles to express his feelings for his childhood friend.

"We show the story of a young boy, comfortable with his laidback lifestyle and hesitant to take responsibilities, getting a reality check," says Madhu.

Modern day maladies

Rupesh SK, who directed and starred in the short *Seniors,* maintained the high production value of a feature film. The emotional drama deals with the theme of loneliness in old age. It also reflects the ignorance of modern men's issues in society.

The short is available on KRG Connects, the official channel of the popular banner KRG Studios. "We shot a promotional song that depicted the challenges of making this film. It caught the attention of KRG Studios," says Rupesh about his crowd-funded project.

The charming mini-series *Colors* on Rishab Shetty Films and the haunting short *Chaaye,* available on Raj B Shetty's Lighter Buddha YouTube channel, are other impressive offerings in recent times.

The Kannada short film community is buzzing more than ever before, and gifted young filmmakers have given hope to the industry.

STEPOUT

Fabric stories

The Charaka Womens' Co-operative Society, in association with Desi Trust and Samagata Foundation, will organise a buyer-seller meet, enabling buyers interested in sourcing authentic naturally dyed handwoven fabrics to do so directly from the producers.

At Samagata Foundation, Church Street between June 20 and 21

Drama for children

Atta Galatta's theatre and reading festival, Dum Dama Dum, will be held this weekend. Some of the plays that will be staged will include *Tales of Tenali Rama, Just for Laughs* and *The Monster Who Could Not Climb A Tree* among others.

At Atta Galatta, Indiranagar on June 21, between 11 am and 6pm. Day pass is priced at ₹500. For details visit attagalatta.com

Shake it off

The International Day Against Drug Abuse has been observed on June 26 since 1989. If you wish to be rid of your dependence on substances, Narcotics Anonymous Bangalore can help you stop through daily recovery meetings.

For more information on meetings near you, call 98805 90059

Music for inclusion

To mark World Music Day which falls on June 21, Samarthanam Trust for the Disabled will organise a concert featuring Anusha and Vasundhara, two visually-impaired Hindustani classical singers.

At White Petals, Palace Grounds on June 21, from 6.30pm.

Welcome home Enjoy authentic Kerala cuisine at Coracle. SUDHAKARA JAIN

Shot on OnePlus #FramesofIndia

Hop into the Coracle

The Coracle elevates homely Kerala cuisine to a wonderfully delicious standard

Ruth Dhanaraj
ruth.dhanaraj@thehindu.co.in

There are not too many home chefs who take the plunge into running a restaurant, but Tresa Francis does it with a subtle flair that is the hallmark of The Coracle. Even many regulars to the Bangalore International Centre may not be aware of its existence, tucked away in plain sight, away from the hustle and bustle of its many activities.

The Coracle primarily serves Kerala cuisine with a few South Indian regional exceptions. Chef Tresa Francis, whose culinary influences come from north, central and south Kerala, says cooking has always been a part of her life. "We were all involved in the prepartion of a meal, even as children. Whether it was helping pick produce or poultry, it was something we all did," she says.

We begin our meal with yam fingers served with curry leaf aioli, and kappa (tapioca) kandhari sauce. For those not in the know, boiled tapioca served with a simple dipping sauce of coarsely pounded green chillies, shallots and coconut oil, is a staple in Kerala and can be eaten at any time of day. Both were simple and homely, and set the tone for the rest of our meal.

Next up were the prawn fry, pork fry and beef cutlets, each vying for our attention. Both the prawn and pork fry were delicious, succulent and well flavoured, without an overpowering of spices. It was heartening to see the beef cutlets were of ample proportions, crisp on the outside and moist on the inside.

While Tresa oversees everything at the kitchen, the beef ullarthu and prawn mango curry are two dishes she personally prepares apart from the fish curries. The prawn mango curry is a delicately flavoured gravy in a base of coconut milk and it pairs wonderfully with appams, rice and even parottas.

We end our meal with tender coconut pudding and caramel custard. Both choices are smooth and light on our stomachs that have been well-stuffed at this point.

The Coracle opens at lunchtime and serves meals as well as a few dishes from other regions such as neer dosa, kumbalkai palya, kori gassi and ghee roast from Mangalore, Tamil Nadu's railway mutton curry, Karnataka's hitkidbele gojju (dish of hyacinth beans).

Cost for two: ₹1000. Coracle is at Bangalore International Centre. For reservations call 96116 52064.